

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – VICTIM ASSISTANCE

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Austria, Burkina Faso (Chair), the Netherlands, and Sri Lanka)

Intersessional Meetings

17-20 June 2025

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Bosnia and Herzegovina of updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACTIONS:

Ensure that a relevant government entity in affected States Parties is assigned as the focal point to coordinate victim assistance and oversee and enhance the integration of victim assistance activities into broader national policies, plans, budgets, and legal frameworks (Actions 30, 1 and 2)

2. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees (MOHRR) the national focal point for coordinating victim assistance efforts.
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the mandate of the Victim Assistance “Coordination Body” which was responsible to oversee victim assistance implementation, came to an end in 2022, and that it will be established in 2025. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMACE) leads on implementation of the country’s Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 includes victim assistance as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that work is underway to align victim assistance activities are aligned with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). 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.

Develop a national specific, measurable, realistic, and time-bound disability action plan (Actions 30 and 3)

5. In 2024, Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the need for adoption and domestication of the International Mine Action Standard 13.10 (IMAS 13.10) on Victim Assistance was assessed and concluded that Bosnia and Herzegovina needs to adopt IMAS 13.10 to revise the roles and responsibilities of mine action in victim assistance.
6. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.

Include mine and other explosive ordnance victims or their representative organisations, in victim assistance planning and implementation at the national and local level (Actions 30, 31 and 39)

7. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.

Report on progress and challenges in implementing their national action plans (Action 30)

8. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on availability of services including specialised and mainstream support benefiting mine victims. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that the reduction in mine action funding has affected victim assistance efforts, primarily projects conducted by NGOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Carry out inter-ministerial and multi-sectoral efforts to ensure that the needs and rights of mine and other explosive ordnance victims are effectively addressed (Action 31)

9. Bosnia and Herzegovina that the MOHRR is the main entity and national focal point for coordinating victim assistance, especially in the context of human rights and persons with disabilities, working together with the Ministry of Civil Affairs which is responsible for the health sector and mine action coordination, including oversight of the Demining Commission. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that at entity-level ministries of health and social welfare implement rehabilitation and assistance services.

Identify all mine and other explosive ordnance victims and collect accurate and comprehensive information on their needs, challenges and geographic locations in a manner disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other considerations (Action 32 and also Action 9)

10. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported a total of 1,781 mine and explosive ordnance (EO) victims including 165 adult females, 1,615 adult males, and one person of unknown gender. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported no casualties in 2024.

11. The Committee would welcome further information on indirect victims such as affected family members of survivors and those that have been killed.

Integrate the data on mine and other explosive ordnance victims into a national centralised database, such as disability data systems (Actions 32 and 9)

12. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that BHMAC has a database of mine victims for the entire area of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including entity and canton levels, with data disaggregated by age, sex, and type of injury and that the data is made available to all relevant ministries and stakeholders. A separate data exists for after-war victims and casualties.

Provide effective and efficient context-specific emergency medical care to new casualties and improve national capacity through training, including on psychosocial first care, specialized training for health professionals and layperson first responder training in affected communities (Action 33)

13. Bosnia and Herzegovina on availability of emergency medical care including in areas affected or contaminated by mines. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported no casualties for 2024.

Ensure that mine and other explosive ordnance survivors have access to health services including in rural and remote areas (Action 33)

14. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the country has a well-developed system of healthcare, with well-established clinics, specialised semi-clinics, hospitals and rehabilitation centres. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that specialised support are available to assist mine victims in relieving from phantom pain.

Ensure that a national/sub-administrative area referral mechanism is in place to facilitate access to services (Action 34)

15. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.

Create and disseminate a comprehensive directory of services available, accessible, and inclusive for all mine and other explosive ordnance victims (Action 34)

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

Efforts to increase the availability and accessibility of rehabilitation services (Action 35)

17. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on the availability of comprehensive rehabilitation services including physical, psychological and social support services within the secondary and tertiary social welfare levels. Individual support is also available within the state system of social welfare, where women and children are a priority. Also, Bosnia and Herzegovina reported with the aim of increasing the availability of services in local communities, more Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) as well as Centres for Mental Health (CMZ) have been opened in more than 60 separate locations.

Ensure to provide assistive technology (Action 35)

18. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on the availability of rehabilitation centres which provide high quality prosthetic limbs with Government covering part or full costs. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that 46 mine survivors were provided with high-quality prosthetics

Increase resources and national capacity to make assistive technology affordable and accessible (Action 35)

19. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.

Ensure mine victims have access to psychological and psychosocial support services including to mental health (Action 36)

20. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on availability of psychological support and mental health programme, for general population including for mine victims and persons with disabilities.

Efforts to make peer-to-peer support availability including by integrating it into public healthcare and other relevant systems (Action 36)

21. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.

Meet the social and economic inclusion needs of mine victims (Action 37)

22. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on various socio-economic support available to mine victims including beekeeping, tailored economic support to improve quality of life for persons with disabilities and mine survivors and initiatives to empower female mine victims, implemented by NGOs with support of the Government and donors.

Remove barriers to the social and economic inclusion of mine survivors and affected families (Action 37)

23. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.

The number of mine and other explosive ordnance survivors and affected families accessing social and economic services (Action 37)

24. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported the following mine victims provided with socio-economic support in 2024:

- 14 mine victims in 9 municipalities provided with economic support;
- Beekeeping training provided to 44 mine victims;
- Beekeeping equipment provided to 11 mine victims;
- Entrepreneurship training provided to 25 women – mine victims;
- 10 women mine victims were provided with essential equipment, machinery, tools and goods to start a business in agriculture;
- 297 mine victims were provided with various other supports including psychological, legal, social and health assistances; and,
- 13 persons were provided with training on renewable energy.

Ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risk (Action 38)

25. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on availability of national humanitarian response and preparedness plans and policies ensuring the safety and protection of the population including mine victims in situations of emergency.

Increase inclusion of and access by mine victims into programmes for humanitarian assistance, risk reduction, and conflict preparedness and protection (Action 38)

26. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.

Improve accessibility and strive to remove physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal, and communications barriers (Actions 39 and 37)

27. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.

Include survivors and/or their representative organisations in matters that affect them, including in planning and implementation at the national and community levels (Actions 39, 38 and 30)

28. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.

CROSS - CUTTING ACTIONS:

Demonstrate high levels of national ownership, partnership and coordination (Action 1)

29. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.

Ensure that gender, age, disability considerations, and the diverse needs and experiences of people in mine-affected communities including mine survivors, are considered (Action 5)

30. Bosnia and Herzegovina provided disaggregated information on casualties and gender and diversity are included in BHMIC's national mine action strategy, requiring full consideration throughout the mine action programme, including victim assistance.

Allocating national financial commitments for victim assistance implementation (Action 40)

31. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on the availability of funds for rehabilitation and employment for persons with disabilities to improve professional rehabilitation and employment among persons with disabilities regardless of impairment cause.

Having a resource mobilisation plan (for victim assistance) in place (Action 41)

32. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.

SRAAP country reporting tracker							
Victim Assistance							
Bosnia and Herzegovina							
Actions	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information or clarification requested by the Committee
30	% of affected States Parties that report on the relevant government entity assigned as the focal point to oversee and enhance the integration of victim assistance into broader national policies, plans, budgets, and legal frameworks to ensure its sustainability, including following Article 5 completion;						
	% of affected States Parties that report having an inclusive national action plan in place considering mine and other explosive ordnance victims, gender, age, disability, and other considerations and containing specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound objectives;						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
	% of affected States Parties that report including mine and other explosive ordnance victims or their representative organisations, in victim assistance planning and implementation at the national and local level;						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
	% of affected States Parties that report on progress and challenges in implementing their national action plans.						
31	% of affected States Parties that report having in place an interministerial and multi-sectoral coordination mechanism to ensure that the needs and rights of mine and other explosive ordnance victims are addressed;						
	% of affected States Parties that report including the needs and rights of mine and other explosive ordnance victims in relevant national policies, legal frameworks, and budgets.						
32	% of affected States Parties that report on efforts to identify mine and other explosive ordnance victims and disaggregate victim data by gender, age, disability, and other considerations;						The Committee would welcome further information on indirect victims such as affected family members of survivors and those that have been killed.
	% of affected States Parties that report the inclusion of data on mine and other explosive ordnance victims in a national centralised database such as disability data systems and make data available to relevant stakeholders in accordance with data protection regulations/measures.						
33	% of affected States Parties that report having a mechanism in place to ensure an efficient and effective emergency response to new casualties;						
	% of affected States Parties that report on availability and accessibility of health services, including in rural and remote areas.						
34	% of affected States Parties that report having a national/sub-administrative referral mechanism in place which is available, accessible, and inclusive for all mine victims;						
	% of affected States Parties that report having a comprehensive directory of services available, accessible, and inclusive for all mine victims.						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
35	% of affected States Parties that report on efforts to increase the availability and accessibility of rehabilitation services;						
	% of affected States Parties that report on the provision of assistive technology;						
	% of States Parties that report on efforts to increase resources and national capacity to make assistive technology affordable and accessible.						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.

36	% of affected States Parties that report on mine and other explosive ordnance survivors and affected families accessing mental health and psychological support disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other relevant factors;						
	% of affected States Parties that report on the provision of and integrating peer-to-peer support into public healthcare and other relevant systems.						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
37	% of affected States Parties that report on programmes for inclusive employment, livelihoods, and other social protection services;						
	% of affected States Parties that report on efforts to remove barriers to the social and economic inclusion of mine survivors and affected families;						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
	% of affected States Parties that report on the number of mine and other explosive ordnance survivors and affected families accessing social and economic services, disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other relevant factors.						
38	% of affected States Parties that report integrating the safety and protection of mine survivors in their emergency/humanitarian response and preparedness plans;						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
	% of affected States Parties that report on mine victims' inclusion and accessibility to programmes for humanitarian assistance, risk reduction, and conflict preparedness and protection.						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
39	% of affected States Parties that report on progress in removing physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal, and communication barriers;						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
	% of affected States Parties that report including survivors and/or their representative organisations in matters that affect them, including in planning and implementation at the national and community levels.						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS							
1	% of affected States Parties that report integrating Convention implementation activities into: national development plans and budgets, strategies and budgets including on poverty reduction, humanitarian response, on health and mental health, gender equality inclusion of persons with disabilities, peacebuilding, Human Rights, climate change adaptation plans, environmental protection and improvement, and/or disaster risk reduction						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
	% of affected States Parties that report having strengthened partnerships and coordinated Convention implementation activities with relevant humanitarian, peacebuilding, climate, environmental, development, health, disability, and human rights sectors						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
5	% of affected States Parties that report national work plans and strategies integrating gender, age, disability considerations, and the diverse needs and experiences of people in mine-affected communities including mine survivors;						
	% of affected States Parties that report national work plans and strategies developed through inclusive consultation with stakeholders including survivors and representatives of mine-affected communities						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
	of mine victims and survivor organisations participating in Convention meetings						
40	% of affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to their implementation of victim assistance.						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
	% of States Parties that report on exploring all sources of funding, including conventional and alternative/innovative						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
41	% of affected States Parties that report on progress, challenges in implementation, and requirements for assistance.						
	% of affected States Parties that report having a resource mobilisation plan in place.						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
	% of affected States Parties that have taken advantage of the Individualised Approach.						The Committee would welcome information in this regard.