

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

IRAQ

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 Iraq 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. Iraq reported that the *Authority for the Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs*, which oversees the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), is the government entity that ensures the integration of victim assistance into broader programmes and legal frameworks. Iraq reported that all ministries integrate the needs of mine victims in their policies and frameworks and that 12 ministries along with other agencies, including Kurdistan government, Human Rights Commission and a representative of the Council of Ministers are members of *the Authority for the Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs*.

3. Iraq reported that the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) under the Ministry of Environment continuously playing a leading role in coordinating mine action efforts including victim assistance.

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

4. Iraq reported implementing a victim assistance strategy and that its National Mine Action Strategy 2023–2028 integrates victim assistance as a core pillar, aiming to provide gender- and diversity-sensitive, rights-based services and opportunities accessible to all EO victims equally.

5. *The Committee would welcome receiving a copy of the victim assistance strategy.*

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)

6. Iraq reported that mine victims and their representative organisations are included in relevant policy and practices.

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

7. Iraq reported on progress made in delivering assistance to mine victims and in strengthening implementation support mechanisms. Iraq also reported on challenges hindering victim assistance,

such as access to some of the areas, shortages of trained rehabilitation and psychological personnel and the barriers faced by mine victims due to economic hardship, distance to services or lack of information to assist them in accessing services.

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)

8. Iraq reported that efforts in Victim Assistance and disabilities are aligned with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and domesticated by the Law for the Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs No. 38, which guarantees the rights of persons with disabilities. Iraq reported undertaking multi-sectoral efforts with the aim to develop a unified approach and a plan of action that is inclusive of the rights and needs of persons with disabilities and mine victims.

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)

9. Iraq reported 44 new casualties in 2024, showing a decrease from 56 reported in 2023 and 50 in 2022. In total, Iraq has registered 34,249 mine victims. Iraq provided information disaggregated by gender and age of the victims as well as locations of incidents.

10. Iraq reported that mapping and needs assessments are conducted with a focus on marginalised groups such as children, women and internally displaced persons.

11. The Committee would welcome information on indirect victims, such as affected families.

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. Iraq reported that efforts to create a unified database to bring together all relevant data including those of mine victims, has continued in 2024 among DMA and several ministries and authorities in collaboration with the National Data Centre Department of Iraq. Iraq reported that it has been decided that the Ministries of Planning, Health, Defense, and Interior provide the National Data Center Department with relevant data, to be submitted electronically and categorised according to the classifications defined by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) and the *Authority for the Care of People with Disabilities and Special Needs*.

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. Iraq reported on availability of medical care delivered by emergency wards of government hospitals near affected communities and in addition, continuous medical care is offered by medical rehabilitation hospitals, rehabilitation centres, and prosthetic limb manufacturing centres.

14. The Committee would welcome further information on efforts made to improve national capacity in this regard?

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

15. Iraq reported on availability of healthcare services provided through public healthcare centres and hospitals and in addition, some healthcare related services are provided by MOLSA and the *Authority for the Care of People with Disabilities and Special Needs*.

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

16. The Committee would welcome information 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)

17. Iraq reported that a Guide to Emergency Medical Services victims of mine and other explosive ordnance (EO) have been published by the DMA and the Ministry of Health's departments of emergency medical care and rehabilitation. Iraq reported that the Guides assists all persons with disabilities including mine and other EO survivors to access healthcare and rehabilitation services as well as vocational training provided by MOLSA.

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

18. Iraq reported on progress made in provision of rehabilitation services, including through community rehabilitation initiatives carried out by the Ministry of Health (MOH), which aims to deliver comprehensive medical and rehabilitation services to victims in remote and underserved areas. Iraq reported that the outreach rehabilitation teams include experts from the MOH, a physical therapist, a prosthetic limb technician and a representative from the *Authority for the Care of People with Disabilities and Special Needs*.

19. Iraq reported that rehabilitation centres exist in several governorates providing prosthetics, physiotherapy and psychological support, some of which are assisted by the ICRC and Humanity & Inclusion.

Ensure to provide assistive technology (Action 35)

20. Iraq reported that the MOH provided over 700 items of assistive devices, including 396 prosthetic limbs to mine victims in 10 governorates.

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

21. The Committee would welcome information on progress made to increase financial resources and national capacity to make assistive technology more affordable and accessible.

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

22. Iraq reported that steps were taken to integrate mental health into primary healthcare services, and that challenges such as shortages of trained personnel, medications and inadequate referral systems are yet to be addressed in this regard. Iraq also reported that psychological support is provided by the mobile community rehabilitation teams to reach victims in rural and remote areas, recently created by the MOH.

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

23. The Committee would welcome information in this regard.

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

24. Iraq reported that the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in collaboration with the “Authority for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs” provided various types of assistance including socio-economic, training, vehicle, sabbatical leave, education, healthcare and assistance to caretakers of mine survivors to 5,084 mine victims.

- Sabbatical leave: 108 males, 139 females
- Cars: 63 males, 33 females
- Studying/school fees: 3 males, 2 females
- Health insurance: 2 males, 5 females
- Employment: 7 males, 6 females
- Travel fees: 4 males, 3 females
- Training courses: 1 male, 2 females
- Salaries of a caregivers of survivors: 2,113 males, 2,593 females

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

25. 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)

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

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

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

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

28. 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)

29. Iraq reported on efforts made to enhance access to services for mine victims and persons with disabilities, including through implementation of national mine action strategy, national standard for victim assistance (NMA 13.10) and several national events including with participation of the Prime Minister to empower persons with disabilities including mine survivors.

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)

30. Iraq reported that mine survivors and their representative organisations are included in relevant planning and implementation efforts.

CROSS - CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

31. Iraq reported on progress made in areas of data, rehabilitation and mental health and on continued efforts to improve assistance to mine victims.

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)

32. Iraq provided disaggregated information on casualties occurred in 2024 and efforts made to improve gender and age sensitive assistance including in remote and affected areas.

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

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

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

34. Iraq reported on efforts made to strengthen partnerships and collaboration with its international partners, through bilateral engagements, while, stating that no resource mobilisation plan has been developed.

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

SRAAP country reporting tracker							
Victim Assistance							
Iraq							
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 receiving a copy of the victim assistance strategy.
	% 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;						
	% 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 information on indirect victims, such as affected families.
	% 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.						The Committee would welcome further information on efforts made to improve national capacity in this regard?
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;						The Committee would welcome information in this regard.
	% of affected States Parties that report having a comprehensive directory of services available, accessible, and inclusive for all mine victims.						
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 information on progress made to increase resources and national capacity to make assistive technology more affordable and accessible.

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 information in this regard.
37	% 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 information in this regard.
	% of affected States Parties that report on programmes for inclusive employment, livelihoods, and other social protection services;						The Committee would welcome information 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.						The Committee would welcome information in this regard.
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 information 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 information in this regard.
39	% of affected States Parties that report on progress in removing physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal, and communication barriers;						
	% 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.						
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						
	% 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						
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						
	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 information in this regard.
	% of States Parties that report on exploring all sources of funding, including conventional and alternative/innovative						
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 on Iraq's interests in utilising the opportunity provided by individualised approach for victim assistance.