

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

SRI LANKA

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 Sri Lanka 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. Sri Lanka reported that the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) holds the responsibility of coordinating victim assistance implementation, and it has designated an officer to ensure coordinated efforts with national stakeholders and that continued consultations with the Ministry of Health's (MoH) department for youth, elderly and persons with disabilities and department of social services, the National secretariate for Persons with Disabilities (NSPD) in victim assistance efforts.
3. Sri Lanka reported that by the end of 2024 victim assistance focal persons will be appointed at the Ministry of Social Services and Ministry of Health at national and provincial levels, with a specific focus on the North and East regions and that by the end of 2025, the establishment of quarterly coordination meetings at national and provincial levels with relevant stakeholders will advance the agenda of victim assistance, prevent duplication of efforts and ensure accurate information on victims.

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

4. Sri Lanka reported that the National Mine Action Completion Strategy 2023-2027 includes victim assistance, and it requires NMAC to facilitate implementation of victim assistance including by compiling accurate information on mine and explosive ordnance (EO) victims to assist the government in undertaking coordinated efforts in meeting the needs and rights of the victims. A new Disability Rights Bill is currently being processed.

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)

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

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

6. Sri Lanka reported on the Victim Assistance needs assessment survey, conducted in 2024, and provided a summary of the preliminary findings.
7. The Committee would welcome further information on challenges faced in meeting the needs and protecting the rights of mine victims in Sri Lanka.

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. Sri Lanka reported that NMAC established a Victim Assistance Committee comprising the MOH, Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment and other key stakeholders such as Humanity & Inclusion, UNICEF and other relevant organisations. Sri Lanka reported that the Committee oversees the implementation of victim assistance accordance with Sri Lanka's national mine action strategy.

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. Sri Lanka reported 3 new casualties in 2024. Sri Lanka reported that 1,972 mine and EO victims, registered during the period of 2002 to 2024, with 93 per cent of casualties belong to eastern and northern provinces.
10. Sri Lanka reported that a Victim Assistance Needs Assessment has been underway, an initial finding is included in the Article 7 Report and the complete findings will be concluded and launched in May 2025.

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

11. Sri Lanka reported that data on mine and EO victims have been integrated into disability data system, that has been reflected in the initial submission on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Sri Lanka reported that as it approaches the final stages of mine clearance completion, it is important to ensure all data on mine victims are mainstreamed into relevant government practices.
12. The Committee recalls that in 2024 Sri Lanka reported that by the year, accidents related to mines and other EO will be included in the national injury surveillance system forms and database managed by the MOH and that by the end of 2025, the implementation of a systematic data-sharing mechanism will ensure consistent sharing of victim data from NMAC with the MOH and the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment.
13. The Committee would welcome an update with regards to the inclusion of mine victims data in the national injury surveillance system forms and database managed by the MOH.

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)

14. Sri Lanka reported on availability of emergency medical care and that the 3 persons injured due to an accident in 2024 were provided with comprehensive assistance, and that 2 of the injured persons were referred to general hospital for further treatment.

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

15. Sri Lanka reported on having a well-established healthcare system providing free of charge healthcare services, including promotive, preventive, curative, and rehabilitative healthcare, through its extensive network of healthcare institutions across the country, however, due to financial constraints people including mine victims may have to pay for certain costs such as transportation to get to healthcare centres.

16. Sri Lanka reported that by the end of 2025, necessary improvements will be made in referral systems to ensure mine victims receive the support they need in terms of healthcare, rehabilitation, psychological support and socio-economic inclusion, especially in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

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

17. 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)

18. The Committee would welcome information in this regard.

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

19. Sri Lanka reported that the National Rehabilitation Guidelines was published by the MOH with explicit reference to mine victims, aiming to improve the quality, accessibility and effectiveness of rehabilitation services across the country.

20. In 2024, Sri Lanka reported on availability of rehabilitation services, which are delivered by following centres, to everyone in need of rehabilitation support including mine victims:

- Jaffna Jaipur Centre for Disability Rehabilitation (JJCDR), main provider of prosthetics and orthotics in the north and east of the country
- Ragama Rheumatology & Rehabilitation Hospital
- Digana Rehabilitation Hospital
- Maliban Rehabilitation Hospital
- Jayanthipura Rehabilitation Hospital
- Kandagolla Rehabilitation Hospital

21. Sri Lanka reported that challenges with regards to rehabilitation include financial constraints as well as lack of information among persons with disabilities / mine survivors on services offered by the rehabilitation centres.

Ensure to provide assistive technology (Action #35)

22. Sri Lanka reported on available of rehabilitation centres that provide assistive devices.

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

23. The Committee would welcome information in this regard.

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

24. In 2024, Sri Lanka reported that the revised National Mental Health Policy 2020-2030 includes significant commitments to promote mental health services and that by the end of 2024, coordination will be improved with provincial health authorities and social service officers to better identify, refer, and address the specific needs of mine victims. Sri Lanka reported on the availability of psychological support, with psychiatrists, mental health medical officers and stated that by the end of 2024, coordination will be established with the Directorate of Mental Health under the Ministry of Health to ensure that commitments towards the provision of “services for trauma-affected individuals” explicitly encompass victims of mines and other explosive ordnances, especially in northern and eastern provinces.

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

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

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

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

27. Sri Lanka reported on implementation of projects by the Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment, including in areas of vocational training, community-based rehabilitation (CBR), outreach assistance through support networks, welfare support for low-income patients at hospitals, cash grant “Aswesuma” among others that benefit mine survivors and their family members.

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

28. In 2024, Sri Lanka reported that socio-economic inclusion which includes education and social protection provided to persons with disabilities, often overlooked mine victims and to address this gap collaboration between government agencies and other stakeholders will be enhanced and by the end of 2024, survey findings from 20% of mine victims identified by NMAC will be shared with appointed Victim Assistance focal persons at the MOH and Ministry of Social Services and other relevant stakeholders for targeted action.

29. The Committee would welcome an update on progress made by NMAC to address shortcomings in socio-economic inclusion services and other challenges, as reported in 2024.

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

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

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

31. 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)

32. 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)

33. 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)

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

CROSS - CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

35. Sri Lanka reported on establishment of a Victim Assistance Committee with participation of relevant ministries and other stakeholders to oversee implementation and integration of victim assistance.

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)

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

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

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

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

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

SRAAP country reporting tracker							
Victim Assistance							
Sri Lanka							
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;						
	% 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.						The Committee would welcome further information on challenges faced in meeting the needs and protecting the rights of mine victims in Sri Lanka.
#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;						
	% 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.						The Committee would welcome an update with regards to the inclusion of mine victims data in the national injury surveillance system forms and database managed by the MOH.
#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;						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.						The Committee would welcome information 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 information 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;						The Committee would welcome information in this regard.
	% 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 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 on progress made by NMAC to address shortcomings in socio-economic inclusion services and other challenges, as reported in 2024.
	% 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 an update 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 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						
	% 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						
	# 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.						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
	% 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 an update in this regard.