

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

TÜRKIYE

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 Türkiye 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. Türkiye reported that the Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC) monitors social, medical, psychological and economic assistance provided to mine victims and it works with relevant authorities such as the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MOFLSS) and the Ministry of Health (MOH) to ensure assistance is provided to mine victims. Türkiye reported that the Commission for the Care of People with Disabilities and Special Needs (Ministry of Labor and Social Security) is responsible for the disability program.

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

3. Türkiye reported on implementation of the Disability Rights National Action Plan (2023-2025) to ensure the rights of victims of mines and other explosive remnants of war. Türkiye reported that mine survivors are considered as persons with disabilities.

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)

4. The Committee would welcome information in this regard.

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

5. The Committee would welcome information in this regard.

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)

6. Türkiye reported on undertaking inter-ministerial work in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments.

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)

7. Türkiye reported 10 casualties in 2024 of which 9 persons were injured, and 1 killed, showing a decrease compared to casualties reported in previous years: 11 in 2023, 32 in 2022, 38 in 2021 and 67 in 2020. Türkiye reported a total of 4,166 mine victims, disaggregated by gender, age and occupation.

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

8. Türkiye reported that the Commission for the Care of People with Disabilities and Special Needs under the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment Urbanisation and Climate Change has been building a unified database for persons with disabilities, victims of mines and explosive ordnance.

9. *The Committee would welcome an update on progress in building a unified database for persons with disabilities, victims of mines and explosive ordnance.*

10. In 2024, Türkiye reported that data on mine victims had been integrated into the Ministry of Family and Social Services' (MOFSS) national assistance surveillance mechanism. Türkiye also reported that TURMAC has expanded its coverage of data collection and information management of mine and ERW victims to enable the government to provide further assistance to the victims. Türkiye reported that national agencies such as the General Staff, the Ministry of Health and its provincial directorates, the Ministry of Interior, Gendarmerie, General Command and the MOFSS share information on mine accidents and casualties with the TURMAC.

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)

11. Türkiye reported on availability of emergency medical services including near or adjacent to mine contaminated areas and in remote areas.

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

12. Türkiye reported on the availability of healthcare services and prioritisation and discount ins services provided to persons with disabilities, whose impairments exceeds 40 percent.

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

13. Türkiye reported that on availability of referral mechanisms within healthcare system and cooperation in this regard between mine action and relevant ministries offering various kinds of services to mine victims.

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

14. Türkiye reported that the Ministry of Family and Social Services has published the “Information Guide for the Disabled”, containing information on the rights and services offered, to assist persons with disabilities to access services in the areas of disability assessment, health, education, accessibility, personal mobility, employment, incentives and supports, social assistance and social services.

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

15. Türkiye reported that within the scope of the “Social Services Law” persons with disabilities have the right to receive rehabilitation and that as of 2024 106 rehabilitation centres provided support.
16. Türkiye reported that family members are trained to assist therapy for victims, especially in remote areas, including male family members, so that the burden of care does not fall exclusively on women and girls.

Ensure to provide assistive technology (Action 35)

17. Türkiye reported that assistive devices such as wheelchairs, prostheses, speech and hearing aids are provided free of charge to persons with disabilities, by the Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations.
18. Türkiye reported that value added tax exemption is applied to some assistive technologies such as crutches, embossed keyboards, prostheses as well as to motor vehicles and other special tools/products required by persons with disabilities.

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

19. The Committee would welcome information on progresses made to increase 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)

20. 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)

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

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

22. Türkiye reported on provision of various types of socio-economic services to persons with disabilities including mine survivors:
- The 2023-2025 Disability Rights National Action Plan strengthens socio-economic inclusion;
 - A study was conducted jointly by the Directorate General of Social Assistance of the Ministry of Family and Social Services, the Directorate General of Services for the Elderly and Disabled, and the Ministry of National Education to facilitate the lives of victim students with disabilities (child survivors);
 - Students with disabilities are provided with free of charge transportation to schools;

- Free of charge access to museums, historical sites and theatres;
- Subsidised services such as electricity, water, transportation including air transports, etc.;
- Home care assistance provided since 2006 to those in need;
- According to the Civil Servants Law No. 657, public institutions are obliged to employ 3% of their personnels, persons with disabilities; and
- Availability of sports including professional sports to persons with disabilities.

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

23. Türkiye reported on several initiatives including legal and policy frameworks in relation to improving the socio-economic situation of persons with disabilities, including mine victims.

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

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

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

25. The Committee recalls that in 2024 Türkiye reported that environmental safety of minefields is ensured and warning signs indicating that there are mines in the area are placed to prevent our citizens from entering the areas where there is a mine risk. In addition to these, TURMAC has conducted an analysis through its database and determined all at-risk villages in 18 provinces in terms of mine contamination as a part of the National Strategic Mine Action Plan (2020-2025) and works together with Ministry of Interior (MOI) to provide risk education, including to mine victims and their family members.

26. The Committee would welcome further information on measures in place and progress made to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies, including armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies, and natural disasters.

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

27. 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)

28. 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)

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

CROSS - CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

30. Türkiye reported on significant efforts made by various ministries and departments to empower mine and other explosive ordnance victims, demonstrating a high level of national ownership.

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)

31. Türkiye reported that age, gender and disability are considered in the provision of assistance to persons with disabilities, including mine victims.

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

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

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

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

SRAAP country reporting tracker							
Victim Assistance							
Türkiye							
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;						The Committee would welcome information in this regard.
	% of affected States Parties that report on progress and challenges in implementing their national action plans.						The Committee would welcome information in this regard.
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 on progress in building a unified database for persons with disabilities, victims of mines and explosive ordnance.
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.						
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 progresses 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;						The Committee would welcome an update 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 efforts to remove barriers to the social and economic inclusion of mine survivors and affected families;						
	% of affected States Parties that report on programmes for inclusive employment, livelihoods, and other social protection services;						
	% 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 further information on measures in place and progress made to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies, including of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies, and natural disasters.
	% 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						
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.						
	% 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.						