

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – TAJIKISTAN

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Italy, Chile, Sweden and Thailand)

Intersessional Meetings

30 June – 2 July 2020

Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Tajikistan.

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

Mine casualties in 2019

2. The Committee observed that Tajikistan reported three casualties, including two men (killed) and one boy (injured) in 2019. The report states that between 1992 to 2019 a total of 879 casualties have been recorded in Tajikistan, of which 30 per cent have been children and a total of 530 of them have survived. Tajikistan does not record data on indirect victims of anti-personnel mines, the report states. The Committee would encourage Tajikistan to assess the situation of affected families and communities to make sure their needs will be addressed.

Establish or strengthen of a centralised database (Action #35)

3. The Committee observed that Tajikistan reported efforts in maintaining an accurate database on mine/ERW victims. The Committee would welcome additional information on the integration of the data into a national and centralised database, such as national injury surveillance, with capacity to maintain the database in the long-term and make the data available in the form of accessible information for the use of all national relevant stakeholders.

Integrating victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks and designation of a government entity to oversee the integration (Action #33)

4. The Committee observed that Tajikistan reported progress in integrating victim assistance into broader national frameworks and that the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare along with the National Mine Action Centre of Tajikistan are responsible for the coordination of victim assistance and meeting Tajikistan's obligation under the Convention.
5. Tajikistan also reported that the "International Disability Forum" in October 2019 in Dushanbe to promote partnerships for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for persons with disabilities consistent with the 2030 National Development Strategy of Tajikistan. The report further indicates that the Dushanbe Declaration on Disability adopted by the Forum calls for the following strategic priorities to be considered in favour of persons with disabilities:

- a) improving rehabilitation;
- b) improving healthcare;
- c) improving education; and
- d) improving social protection, economic opportunities and livelihood opportunities.

Developing and implementing measurable, realistic and time-bound national action plan (Action #33)

6. The Committee would welcome information on efforts made to develop a national plan of action, with measurable, realistic and time-bound objectives on victim assistance or disabilities.

Removing barriers including physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal and communication barriers to access such services (Action #33)

7. The Committee observed that Tajikistan reported making progress in improving physical accessibility by adapting public buildings in the capital. The Committee would welcome information on efforts to remove barriers that limit the participation of mine survivors and persons with disabilities in their community, in other provinces, including in rural and remote areas of Tajikistan.

Applying multi-sectoral efforts ensure that the needs and rights of mine victims are effectively addressed in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Action #34)

8. The Committee observed that Tajikistan reported that, in 2019, the integration of victim assistance into broader national frameworks continued to be successful and that, to date, seven national laws related to disability were reviewed with the aim of harmonization with the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Access to first aid and ongoing emergency medical care (Action #36)

9. The Committee observed that Tajikistan has made efforts in raising awareness and building capacity to improve first aid capacity. The Committee would welcome further information on advances made in the provision of emergency medical care to meet the ongoing needs of mine survivors.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

10. The Committee would welcome information on progress achieved in developing national referral mechanisms and efforts in creating national directory of services to facilitate mine survivors' access to services.

Access to rehabilitation services including physiotherapy, assistive devices and occupational therapy (Action #38)

11. The Committee observed that Tajikistan reported the implementation of the "National Program for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities for 2017-2020" and that in 2019 a Decree was issued to bring improvements to services provided to persons with disabilities in the country. The Committee also observed that Tajikistan reported challenges such as lack of access to services and shortages of specialists to assist the significant number of the survivors who live in rural and remote areas. The report also states that in 2019 approximately 700 persons were on the waiting list for various types of physical rehabilitation devices such as wheelchairs, prosthetic and orthopaedic services and other priority assistive devices.

12. The Committee would welcome further information on efforts made or plans aiming to overcome the challenges of inaccessibility and shortages of specialists and other remaining challenges in victim assistance in order to meet the needs of all survivors including those living in rural and remote areas.

Access to psychological and psychosocial services including peer-to-peer support (Action #38)

13. The Committee observed that Tajikistan reported progress in the provision of psychological support to mine survivors and persons with disabilities, generally through an annual “Summer Camp” where persons with disabilities including mine survivors receive counselling and peer support including through leisure activities and sports. In 2019, 76 mine/ERW survivors took part in the Summer Camp which was held for a period of two weeks in Sughd region.

14. The Committee would welcome information on efforts Tajikistan may have carried out to create peer-to-peer support networks or strengthen existing networks to ensure the ongoing provision of psychosocial support to mine survivors and affected families.

Access to social and economic inclusion services, including in rural and remote areas (Action #39)

15. The Committee observed that Tajikistan reported objectives to address the social and economic needs of mine victims and that mine survivors benefited from services like other persons with disabilities. However, Tajikistan has not reported concrete efforts that may have been invested in this regard and the number of mine survivors that have/may have benefited from social and economic supports, such as employment opportunities. The Committee would welcome information on progress achieved in meeting the social and economic inclusion needs of mine survivors in urban and rural areas.

Taking measure for safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies (Action #40)

16. The Committee would welcome information on measures that may have been undertaken to ensure safety and protection of mine survivors and persons with disabilities in situations of risks and emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Strengthening inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in all matters that affect them (Action #41)

17. The Committee observed that participation and inclusion of mine survivors is reported to be central to Tajikistan’s mine action programme and that persons with disabilities including mine survivors were continued to participate in relevant activities, including in planning events held by mine action centre in 2019.

Challenges in implementation of Tajikistan’s Victim Assistance Commitments

18. The Committee would welcome additional information on the main challenges faced by Tajikistan in the fulfilment of its Victim Assistance commitments and any specific proposal on how the Committee and the international community could support Tajikistan’s victim assistance activities.