

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

### STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION - CAMBODIA

#### 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 Cambodia.

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Cambodia 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 Cambodia reported 77 casualties in 2019, including 55 men and boys and 22 women and girls, all registered in the Cambodian Mine Victim Information System (CMVIS). The report also indicates that the needs of 3,418 persons with disabilities have been assessed through a Quality of Life Survey conducted in 25 provinces. Cambodia further reported that training has been provided to community leaders in how to collect data as an effort to improve data collection.

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

3. The Committee would welcome information on whether the data on mine/ERW survivors collected and compiled by the Cambodia Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) are integrated into a national centralised database, such as a national injury surveillance with capacity to store and maintain the data and make the data available for the use of relevant national ministries, policy makers and service providers in the country.

#### 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 Cambodia reported implementing the national law on the protection and the promotion of the right of persons with disabilities, and adoption of national frameworks in 2019 such as the national development plan 2019-2023 and national action plan on disabilities 2019-2023. The Committee would welcome information on how the needs and rights of mine survivors are included in these and other broader relevant national frameworks.
5. The Committee observed that Cambodia also reported that the CMAA continues to play an important role in the coordination of victim assistance with relevant stakeholders and that it remains responsible for annual transparency reports, data collection and planning, while the DAC and MOSVYR are the coordinating body on all efforts relating to persons with disabilities including individuals that have acquired impairments by mines and other ERW.

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

6. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported the adoption of the National Disability Strategic Plan 2019-2023 in 2019 which “emphasizes on institutional capacity development, knowledge,

professional skills, initiative to create jobs, a reduction and a gradual move towards elimination of all forms of discrimination and abuse against persons with disabilities, and responsibility of institutions in charge of implementation at both national and sub-national levels". The report also states that the National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 and its 2018-2020 Action Plan containing specific objectives and indicators to address the needs of direct and indirect mine victims, including the provision of gender-sensitive healthcare and physical rehabilitation.

7. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported establishing a Technical Reference Group on Victim Assistance (TRG-VA) in December 2019 to monitor and evaluate reports received from various stakeholders, such as CMAA, the Ministry of Social Affairs Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation (MOSVYR), Disability Action Council (DAC), Persons with Disabilities Foundation (PWDF), Ministry of Health, other relevant ministries, national/international organizations and the 11 physical rehabilitation centres.
8. The Committee would welcome further information on consideration of gender and diversity in the plans and budgets available for their implementations.

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

9. The Committee observed that Cambodia has not reported specific progress regarding the removal of physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal and communication barriers. However, Cambodia reported efforts to raise awareness among mine/ERW survivors and other persons with disabilities and that 259 mine/ERW survivors including 113 women were engaged in discussions convened by the CMAA concerning their needs and the challenges they face. The Committee would welcome information on efforts made to remove any barriers that may hinder social and economic inclusion and participation of mine survivors.

**Applying multi-sectoral efforts to 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)**

10. The Committee would welcome information on progress made concerning the application of multi-sectoral efforts to implement victim assistance.

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

11. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported providing surgery and physiotherapy to 10,639 persons with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors. The Committee would welcome an update on progress made to increase access to first aid and other pre-hospital responses for the rescue and recovery of new casualties in the country.

**Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)**

12. The Committee would welcome information on the existence of or plans to develop a national directory of services to facilitate referrals of mine victims to services.

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

13. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported meeting the rehabilitation needs of 26,467 persons with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors by providing assistive devices through Physical Rehabilitation Centres and Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) services. The Committee

would encourage Cambodia to disaggregate the information by gender, age and disability. The Committee would also welcome further information on affordability of the services provided, such as prostheses, orthoses, physiotherapy as well as occupational therapy.

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

14. The Committee would welcome information on progress made in the provision of psychological and psychosocial support and the availability of or plan to provide peer-to-peer support.

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

15. The Committee observed that Cambodia has been making progress in providing socio-economic inclusion support, by reporting the following measurable achievements:

- a. enrolment of 253 children with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors in primary schools;
- b. facilitating referral to services;
- c. providing vocational trainings to 89 persons with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors;
- d. training 25 persons with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors in small business management;
- e. distribution of small grants to 34 persons with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors as part of the CBR's income generating activity; and
- f. creation of 1,160 self-help groups of persons with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors

16. The Committee would welcome further information on efforts that may be taken to ensure inclusion of victim assistance into Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) frameworks, such as the National Strategic Development Plan 2019-2023.

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

17. The Committee would welcome information on measures undertaken to meet the specific needs of mine survivors 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)**

18. The Committee would welcome information on progress achieved in strengthening participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in relevant policies and programmes.

**Challenges in implementation of Cambodia's Victim Assistance Commitments**

19. The Committee would welcome additional information on the main challenges faced by Cambodia in the fulfilment of its victim assistance commitments and any specific proposal it may have on how the Committee and the international community could be of further support to Cambodia's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance obligations.