

THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE AP MINE BAN CONVENTION

Maputo, Mozambique, 23 -27 June 2014

Assisting the Victims

Statement by Tajikistan

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Allow me firstly to express my pleasure to address 3 Review Conference on behalf of the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme (TMAP) and to up-date on the progress in our efforts to apply various relevant actions in the Cartagena Action Plan in Mine Victim Assistance in Tajikistan and share our views on victim assistance with regards to the proposed outcome documents.

Maputo Review Conference is a good chance to analyse our progress on implementation of Cartagena Action Plan (CAP) and formulate plans to address the remaining challenges. Since the Cartagena Summit the following progress has been achieved in fulfilling obligations in achieving of VA provisions in Tajikistan:

- We achieved good results in data collection and needs assessment survey: Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) has records of number of landmine and ERW victims, with data disaggregated by sex and age. According to the collected national victim database, since 1992 in Tajikistan we registered 850 landmine/ERW victims (482 survivors, 368 fatalities). It is sad to report that this year we had 2 demining accidents which resulted injuries of two deminers and one civilian injured in the result of ERW explosion.
- Since 2012, the ICRC in cooperation with TNMAC and RCST started gathering detailed information on landmine/UXO casualties in order to clarify previous uncertain data, including collecting data on service provision, and needs assessment survey. Survey is ongoing, as for now we have more than 300 Needs Assessment forms filled in. The most valuable that survey is followed up by Individual Rehabilitation Plans for survivors and victims through ICRC's small grants and Micro-economic Initiatives project (MEI). In 2014 ICRC MEI project planned to cover 150 mine victims by grants.

- During the reporting period we were able to provide direct assistance to support establishment of income generating activities to more than 400 landmine survivors and families of killed by landmines through small grants projects and through improved access to the micro-credit funds with favourable conditions in three districts in north of Tajikistan and three districts of Rast valley- central area of country.
- Improve access to the psychological support and assistance through organizing summer rehabilitation camps, initiating peer to peer support project and organizing training on provision of psycho-social assistance to the PWDs for medical staff in mine-affected districts.
- Tajikistan developed standards on accessibility (SNIPs); we are conducting accessibility awareness raising campaign and were able to reconstruct two important for survivors and other PWDs sites in Dushanbe. Last year.
- In Tajikistan we have established a coordination mechanism to promote collaboration between relevant governmental ministries and agencies, survivors and other stakeholders to coordinate and advocate for VA-related programmes and activities. The coordination group meets on regular basis to discuss the integration of VA in the work of wider government and other agency programmes. This year one TWG was organized in February and next one devoted to the accessibility issues is planned to organize on 3 July 2014.
- Tajikistan has undertaken efforts related to the inclusion, full and active participation of mine victims and their representative organizations in victim assistance related activities
- Tajikistan regularly reports to the international community on its efforts to achieve the aims of the CAP.
- I would like to express our gratitude to EU for the support provided through EU Council Decision to organize two-days "National Stakeholders Dialogue on Victim Assistance and Disability Rights: Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities through inclusive policies, systems and services" in Dushanbe in March 2014. More than 65 participants representing different ministries and agencies, as well as INGOs and NGOs and DPOs participated at the EU funded event. The workshop concluded with a number of observations and proposed future steps. The ISU through its technical assistance provided Tajikistan with a number of recommendations on how to continue to implement the victim assistance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan, as well as more generally implement policies protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. The Workshop conclusions were sent to the Government of RT and shared with VA

stakeholders. We thank EU and AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit for the provided support and hope that we could continue our fruitful cooperation with EU in the future.

- TNMAC also presents its highest compliments to AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit for organization of the “Bridges between the Worlds “Conference in Medellin, Columbia and invitation of Tajikistan expert. At the national level we are establishing bridges between the VA and Disability worlds, so we value the discussion at the international level .

The Government of Tajikistan has taken multiple steps towards addressing the challenges of people with disabilities including landmine survivors, such as :

- Piloting a community based rehabilitation model for people with disabilities (2010);
- establishing a Disability Coordination Council (2012);
- setting up an inter-sectoral Working Group on Children with Disabilities(2013);
- adopting a plan of action for implementation of the Universal Periodic Report (UPR) recommendations, which includes consideration to join the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by 2015 (2013);
- adopting an Inclusive Education Strategy (2012);
- adopting a Position Paper on ‘Better Health for People with Disabilities for an Inclusive Society 2014-2019’ (2013);
- developing a draft State Programme on Social Protection of People with Disabilities 2014-2015 (2013) which focused on CRPD accession by RT and was developed through consultative process, led by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population’s Research Institute of Labour and SPP, involving governmental entities, DPOs, NGOs, INGOs. However, due to changes in Government structure and particularly re-structurization of the ministries in the end of 2013 the Ministry of Health and Social protection of population become responsible for the issues of social protection of PWD and Programme was not formally adopted.

Moreover, the Government of Tajikistan started to show strong interest for the **CRPD ratification** and in 2013 established a Governmental Working Group for

CRPD (GWGCRPD). UN Agencies have been instrumental in garnering support for this process and contributed to an increased commitment from the Government for development of inclusive policies, systems and services in accordance with the Convention. Building on these achievements, the GWGCRPD has drafted a plan of action, which includes carrying out a review and revision of legislation and accession to the CRPD, as well as an awareness raising campaign, which will address the stigma and discrimination against persons with disabilities.

VA provisions included Maputo Action Plan are very important for us, States Parties with significant number of landmine survivors, and we fully agree with them, we accept recommendations on the future victim assistance-related activities presented in the document. MAP is very useful document for further efforts of VA Program to address the rights and needs of survivors, the families of those killed or injured, and other persons with disabilities in Tajikistan in order to address remaining challenges. We hope to continue engaging in the work of this Convention VA experts thanks to the sponsorship programme in the future.

In 2014 we are continuing implementation of projects supported by USDoS :

1. Continue organizing training on psycho-social rehabilitation for medical staff of district hospitals and staff of the district departments of social protection of population in four regions of Tajikistan and Dushanbe. Additional to the 85 doctors and nurses trained last year we planned to cover all mine affected districts and train up to 125 medical staff.
2. To continue introducing physical accessibility solutions within Tajikistan based on international standards and raising awareness on disability and accessibility. This year reconstruction of at least 3 pilot sites significant to survivors and PWDs is planned.
3. Micro-credit project is continued, so far 57 landmine survivors/PWDs or their families received micro-credits from two MCF this year to start their own business.
4. We are going to continue our regional cooperation with Afghanistan colleagues to further develop and promote South-South cooperation by sharing national expertise, good practices and experience in the field of VA/Disability.

Implementing of VA projects highly depends on funding. Lack of funds to implement disability related activities remain a most significant challenge. TNMAC now is nationalized and we need more resource allocation to build government capacity to provide services and disability related activities and to implement legal obligations.

We should strengthen national ownership by allocating adequate national resources and mobilize resources from the international community to address the gaps in resources available to implement VA. Tajikistan is in need of assistance for the more efficient comprehensive rehabilitation of landmine survivors and persons with disabilities.

Taking this opportunity I would like to express our gratitude and thank to all our donors for their generous support –UNDP, ICRC and its Special fund for disabled, US Department of State and EU. We hope in the future continue to work in close cooperation with our partners and donors. We highly appreciate the work done by the AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit and thank them for their constant support and assistance!

Lastly I would like to reaffirm the commitment of Tajikistan to ensure the well-being of tajik survivors injured by mines and UXOs and other PWD to our work forward to achieve the best possible QoL for landmine survivors.

Thank you for the attention!