

CCW - Protocol V Meeting of Experts - Session on Victim Assistance
Tuesday 7 April, 3:00pm

1. Are there victims of explosive remnants of war under your country's jurisdiction or control? Does your country have any data on victims or persons with disabilities?

Tajikistan has victims of explosive remnants of war (ERW) and landmine victims. Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) has records of number of landmine and ERW victims, with data disaggregated by sex and age. Since 1992 until 1 January 2014 in Tajikistan 851 landmine/ERW victims (482 survivors, 369 fatalities) were registered. Approximately 30% of mine survivors were children at the time of their accidents.

The total number of all People with Disabilities, including landmine/ERW survivors, registered for pensions in the Medical Social State Service is 147 thousand 327 (as for the 1 January 2015 data received from MoHSPP).

Since 2012, the ICRC in cooperation with RCST started gathering detailed information on landmine/UXO casualties, including on service provision, collecting data, clarifying previous data and needs assessment survey. Survey is ongoing, by the end of March 2015 the ICRC received **531** forms on data collection of landmine/ERW victims/or their families. Collected data in being transferred to TNMAC for entering into IMSMA database and for further analyzing. The most valuable is that survey is followed up by the development of Individual Rehabilitation Plans for survivors and victims through ICRC's small grants and Micro-economic Initiatives project (MEI).

2. What medical care, rehabilitation, psychological support services are available for treating injuries such as those caused by ERW?

Free Medical care is guaranteed by the Tajik legislation to all injured people, including injuries caused by ERW. Medical points and central district hospitals provide medical services to all injured people. Persons with disabilities are eligible for free services at the governmental health facilities. Rehabilitation services are also provided through physiotherapy departments and physiotherapy rooms at medical facilities.

Taking into account that most of psychological support services are located in the urban centers, TMAP Improved access to the psychological support and assistance through organizing summer rehabilitation camps, peer to peer support projects and organizing training on provision of psycho-social assistance to the PWDs for medical staff in mine-affected districts.

3. What measures are in place to support the social and economic inclusion of victims, especially their employment.

Tajikistan legislation guarantees introduced 1) a 5% employment quotas for PWDs in private as well as public sector 2) creating working conditions for persons with disabilities.

Tajikistan through its Mine Action Programme with UNDP and other donors support provided direct assistance to support establishment of income generating activities to more than 500

landmine/ERW 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 of Dugd region (in north of Tajikistan) and three districts of Rast valley-(Central area).

ICRC's Micro-Economic Initiatives starting from beginning of the programme in 2012. Till now ICRC provided support to 333 families:

- 314 families benefited from micro-economic grants and
-19 families were supported through different type of support that contributed to the general well-being of the families. Project is on-going now.

4. Is there a comprehensive law to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities? If not, what laws exist that address the rights of persons with disabilities?

The basic rights of persons with disabilities in Tajikistan, as with all citizens, are guaranteed under the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan and other legislation.

The main relevant legal instrument is the revised "Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Social Protection of PWD" (no. 675) which was adopted in 2010. The law defines the "legal, economic and organizational framework for social protection of the disabled and provide them with equal opportunities for life and integration into society."

5. Is there a focal point within your Government on victim assistance?

Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre is responsible for coordinating and monitoring of all mine action activities, including assistance to victims of landmine and ERW in Tajikistan. TNMAC's Deputy Director and STMAP VA Advisor are responsible for the VA issues in Tajikistan.

In Tajikistan we have a coordination mechanism to promote collaboration between relevant government ministries and agencies, survivors and other stakeholders to coordinate and advocate for VA-related programmes and activities. Since 2012 VA Coordination Group was re-named as Disability Support Technical Working Group, to reinforce the understanding that efforts to assist the victims should be part of broader disability and development frameworks.

In 2014 VA started its mainstreaming into UNDP's Disability programme and Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population (MHSP) activities in favour of persons with disabilities: UNDP was co-organizer of Community Based Rehabilitation Conference in partnership with MHSP, WHO, UNICEF and other partners on 2 December; four seminars devoted to the CRPD and Rights of People with Disabilities including landmine victims were organized; accessible environment promoted through improved access to the education for the blind children and adults.

6. Is there a national plan on persons with disabilities? If so, how is the work on victim assistance incorporated into your Government's national plan on persons with disabilities and overall development framework?

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.
- The government of Tajikistan has set itself the task of developing a medium term social protection strategy for the period 2015-2020.

The Government of Tajikistan in 2013 established a Governmental Working Group for CRPD (GWGCRPD). 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.

"Tajikistan National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2010 – 2015" (MASP) to address the challenges caused by landmine/ERW contamination and to meet its obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) was approved by Government of RT (22 April 2011) and was revised in 2013-14. Victim Assistance (VA) is one of four pillars highlighted in the MASP.

Transition to National Ownership Strategy 2015-2017 was developed by Government and NGO stakeholders involved in Tajikistan's Mine Action Programme (TMAP) with the support of UNDP's Support to Tajikistan Mine Action Programme (STMAP) staff.

