

Thailand's Intervention
at the Twentieth Meeting of the State Parties
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
“Assisting the victims: Conclusions and recommendations related to
the mandate of the Committee on Victim Assistance”
21-25 November 2022

Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. As a mine-affected State Party, Thailand has long perceived the devastating impacts of landmines. Apart from the lives that had been taken away as a result of mine accidents, mine survivors have to face lifelong suffering. Therefore, Thailand places an importance on **Victim Assistance (VA)** and has been fully committed to the obligations to assist those who have suffered from landmines.
2. We would like to reiterate that VA should be done in a **holistic manner**, placing the needs of the people at the center. We support the implementation of **the Oslo Action Plan**, which provides guidelines for States Parties to ensure that the needs of survivors and victims are effectively addressed and their rights are duly protected. Such **“holistic approach”** regarding VA activities is not just limited to the work done domestically, but the Action Plan also encourages States Parties in the position to do so to grant their support to other States Parties in need of assistance.
3. To assist the work on this issue, Thailand has joined **the Committee on Victim Assistance** on several terms, most recently in 2020-2021. During Thailand's chairmanship of the VA Committee in 2021, we have set priorities in synchronizing and aligning VA efforts amongst different treaty frameworks, including between the APMBC and the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.
4. As guided by the Oslo Action Plan, it is also important to integrate mine victim assistance programmes into **national policies and legal frameworks**. These practices have helped Thailand to effectively provide necessary assistance to mine victims through effective coordination between different agencies.
5. In our case, once a landmine accident occurs, **the National Institute for Emergency Medicine (NIEM)** will be the first agency to ensure that the patient gets full access to appropriate and high-quality medical support. This emergency treatment under **the Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** policy framework, in particular, **the Universal Coverage for Emergency Patients (UCEP)**, covers all emergency patients in Thailand, including victims of explosive hazards. This

means that the patient will get equal medical treatment, free of charge. Moreover, for effective treatment, NIEM has recently set out **5 core principles in the 2023 – 2027 Thailand’s Emergency Medicine Policy Framework: “Equity”, “Coverage”, “Standard”, “Research and Innovation”, and “Intelligence and High Performance Organization”** – to drive the emergency medical healthcare scheme forward. NIEM also aims to increase its capacity to rescue patients in remote areas, where mine accidents usually occur, using different types of vehicles, including air ambulances, with highest standard. This year, NIEM together with the ICRC, will hold a training on **Blast Trauma Care (BTC)** in December – the aim of which is to train deminers on how to provide initial care to victims who suffer blast related injuries to maximise their chance of survival.

6. In unfortunate cases where victims become disabled, **the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MDHS)** will provide aids and support in accordance with **the Persons with Disability Empowerment Act**. MDHS has been working to ensure that people with disabilities are entitled to equal opportunities and their rights are duly protected. We also put emphasis on the importance of empowerment for persons with disabilities by improving access to medical services, rehabilitation and trainings through the issuance of **ID cards for persons with disabilities** – to ensure that their access to those services.

7. The data of mine victims and affected by landmines in Thailand has also been **collected, disaggregated by age and gender**. Thailand Mine Action Center (TMAC) provides teams to visit victims to assure their further needs are addressed. The Royal Thai Government, particularly the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Agriculture, has worked closely with NGOs, such as the Norwegian’s People Aids, to improve their livelihood with **various vocational training schemes**, such as agricultural and IT skill training courses.

Mr. Chair,

8. With our above-mentioned experiences and approached towards mine victims assistance, Thailand wishes to reiterate its commitment towards the victim assistance obligations under the Convention and express our readiness to cooperate with all parties to promote cooperation and experience sharing on this matter.

Thank you.

Allocated Time: 5 mins

Words count : 684