

## PRELIMINARY MID-TERM ASSESMENT

### CROATIA

#### STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – VICTIM ASSISTANCE

##### COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Algeria, Ecuador, Italy and Uganda)

Intersessional Meetings

20-22 June 2022

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

##### **Mine casualties**

3. Croatia reported 7 casualties in 2021, of which 6 persons were injured and one person was killed. Croatia reported a total of 606 casualties, registered between 1996 to end of 2021.
4. The Committee would welcome disaggregated information by age, gender and disability of the 606 mine victims, and information on indirect victims, such as affected families.

##### **VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACTIONS:**

##### **Strengthen partnerships and integrate victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks and designation of a government entity to oversee the integration (Actions #1, #6 and #33)**

5. Croatia reported that victim assistance is integrated into relevant national laws, policies and programmes.
6. Croatia reported that in July 2021 a new “Law on Civilian Victims of the Homeland War” was adopted by the Croatian Parliament, and it provides the same legal security to civilian victims as is already provided to the Croatian War Veterans, and among others, to explosive ordnance (EO) survivors and affected families.
7. Croatia also reported that relevant State administration authorities are involved in addressing challenges in victim assistance, including medical rehabilitation, socio-economic empowerment and other areas. The Committee welcomes Croatia to provide information on designation of a government entity that oversee the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, and their implementation.

##### **Develop and implement measurable, realistic and time-bound national action plan (Actions #2 and #33)**

8. The Committee would welcome information on action plans or strategies that guide victim assistance efforts including its integration into broader frameworks.

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

9. Croatia reported that the new Law on Civilian Victims of the Homeland War ensures equal access to services and aims to improve socioeconomic status of the victims.
10. The Committee would welcome further information on progress made regarding the removal of physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal or communication barriers that may exist and limit mine victims' access to services.

**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)**

11. The Committee noted that in 2021 Croatia reported that the Ministry of Interior planned to further pursue creation of a Coordination Body in accordance with the Act on Mine Action and with membership of representatives of ministries competent for home affairs, health and war veterans, Croatian Pension Insurance Institute, Croatian Institute of Public Health and other relevant stakeholders.
12. The Committee welcomes Croatia to provide an update on progress made in activating the Coordination Body in 2021.

**Establish or strengthen of a centralised database / national information management system (Actions #9 and #35)**

13. Croatia reported completing a national field survey and has established a comprehensive EO database, gathering information on needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men from diverse populations and all ages. Croatia reported that the field survey was completed with a very good response rate of 82.6% of the available households (data was gathered from 423 EO victims and 473 EO closest family members.)
14. Croatia reported that the collected data concerned the social status, psycho-physical health, education, etc., and became an integral part of the comprehensive mine victim database that help future activities.
15. The Committee would welcome information on dissemination of the information collected by the field survey among relevant ministries and authorities.

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

16. Croatia reported on the availability of public health care structures that that includes clinics, clinical centres, specialised polyclinics, hospitals and rehabilitation centres, and everyone involved in the incidents are entitled to health protection and rehabilitation.

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

17. Croatia included a brochure in its report that includes list of contacts of relevant ministries, agencies and service providers and the brochure is made available online, in national language.
18. The Committee would welcome information on the existence of or plans to develop a national referral mechanism to ensure mine victims' access to services.

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

19. Croatia reported availability of rehabilitation and the availability of insurance to assist the victims to access assistive devices.

20. The Committee would welcome information on inclusion of rehabilitation into health systems.

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

21. Croatia reported that in 2021 specific efforts were carried out for psychosocial empowerment, including counselling and educational activities to advance the social inclusion of the victims, and their family members.

22. The Committee recalls that in the past Croatia reported the availability of psychosocial interdisciplinary centres in all 21 counties of the country, including four regional centres for psychological services providing psychotherapeutic services.

23. The Committee would welcome information on availability of peer-to-peer support, and its inclusion into health systems.

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

24. Croatia reported that the adoption of the new Law on the Civilian Victims of the Homeland War will improve the socio-economic situation of mine victims.

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

25. Croatia reported that various forms of rights of victims are realised through over 200 different laws and by-laws.

26. The Committee would welcome information on progress made or plans to strengthen measures for the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies including natural disasters.

**Strengthening inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in all matters that affect them (Actions #4 and #41)**

27. The Committee welcomes Croatia to share information on progress made for inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in relevant policies and programmes.

**CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS:**

**Demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including [...] by making financial and other commitments to implementation (Action #1)**

28. Croatia reported that by adopting the new Law on Civilian Victims of the Homeland War in 2021, Croatia showed its strong determination to improve an inclusive environment in favour of the victims.

29. The Committee would welcome information on allocation of national financial commitments for implementation of victim assistance activities.

**Ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered (Action #3)**

30. Croatia reported that the field survey that was carried out with support of Switzerland, considered the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men as well as their age.

**Challenges in implementation of Victim assistance Commitments (Action #8)**

31. The Committee would welcome information on challenges encountered in victim assistance in Croatia and information on how the international community including the Committee on Victim Assistance can assist Cambodia to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

**The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker**  
**Victim Assistance**  
**Croatia**

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information request by the Committee (deadline 9 August)
#33	# States Parties that have designated a government entity to coordinate victim assistance activities						The Committee welcomes information on the government agency designated to oversee the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks.
	# States Parties that have national action plans in place containing specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound objectives and related indicators						The Committee would welcome information on plans in action plan / strategy in place to guide victim assistance efforts.
#34	# States Parties that report that they include mine victims in relevant national policy and support frameworks						The Committee welcomes Croatia to share information on efforts made to ensure the participation and inclusion of mine victims, including by lifting any barriers that hinder their empowerment.
#35	# States Parties that include victims of anti-personnel mines in disability data systems						The Committee would welcome further information on dissemination of information gathered through the field survey, among relevant national ministries and stakeholders.
	# States Parties that disaggregate victim data by gender, age and disability						
#36	# States Parties reporting on efforts to ensure an efficient and effective emergency response to mine accidents						
#37	# States Parties that report having a national referral mechanism						The Committee would welcome information on availability of a national referral mechanism.
	# States Parties that report having a directory of services in place						
#38	# States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability and accessibility of comprehensive rehabilitation services						The Committee would welcome information on integration of rehabilitation into health systems.
	# States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability of psychological and psychosocial support services						
	# States Parties that have established peer-to-peer services within their national healthcare system						The Committee would welcome information on peer counselling and its integration into health systems.
#39	# States Parties reporting on efforts to remove barriers to the social and economic inclusion of mine victims						
#40	# States Parties that report integrating protection of mine survivors in their humanitarian response and preparedness plans						The Committee welcomes Croatia to share information on measures in place to ensure the safety and protection of mine victims in stations of risks and emergencies.
#41	# States Parties that report that they include victim representatives or their organizations in victim assistance planning at the national and local level						The Committee welcomes information on enhancement of mine victims participation and inclusion in 2021.
<b>CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS</b>							
#1	# States Parties that report, having included Convention implementation activities in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and						

	national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, where appropriate						
	% mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention						
#3	# mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						The Committee would welcome information on the three-implementation plan and efforts to ensure resources for its implementation.
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
#8	# States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting						
	# States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings						The Committee would welcome information on challenges faced in assisting mine victims.