

## PRELIMINARY MID-TERM ASSESMENT

### IRAQ

#### 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 Iraq of updated information on its victim assistance activities.
2. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

##### **Mine casualties**

3. The Committee observed that Iraq reported a total of 45 casualties in 2021 which shows an increase in comparison to 38 casualties reported in 2020, bringing the total registered number to 34,088 casualties in Iraq.
4. The Committee appreciates Iraq providing disaggregated data on annual casualties and welcomes such information on all casualties registered by Iraq. The Committee would welcome 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 (Action #33 and also Actions #1 and #6)**

5. Iraq reported that the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) is responsible, and it coordinates victim assistance efforts with relevant ministries and authorities in the country.
6. The Committee recalls that in 2021 Iraq reported that the Commission of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs (CPWDSN), which oversees the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), is the Government entity that ensures the integration of victim assistance into broader programmes and legal frameworks.
7. The Committee would welcome information on progress made in integrating victim assistance into broader plans and policies in 2021.

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

8. The Committee would welcome information on development and implementation of the victim assistance action plan or the inclusion of victim assistance commitments into other existing national action plans, such as disability plans.

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

9. Iraq reported that the Law for the Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs N°38, ensures the needs and rights of all persons with disabilities, including victims of mines and ERW to disability, health, education, employment and development services.
10. The Committee would welcome information on measures in place and progress made in 2021 to lift barriers that may hinder social and economic inclusion and participation of mine victims in Iraq.

**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. Iraq reported undertaking multi-sectoral efforts with the aim to develop a unified approach and a plan of action that is inclusive of the rights and needs of persons with disabilities and mine victims.
12. The Committee recalls that in 2021 Iraq reported shared responsibility on victim assistance among relevant ministries, such as the followings:
  - the Ministry of Transport allocated special seats in public transport buses and offers discount for travel ticket for Iraqi Airways and Trains;
  - the Ministry of Youth and Sports established a special stadium for athletes with disabilities to increase their participation in local and international sports, in addition to supporting the activities carried out by the Paralympic Committee;
  - the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs allocated monthly salary (pension) for persons with disabilities and offers loans for those who are seeking to invest; and
  - the Ministry of Trade facilitates the ownership of adapted cars with reduced prices.

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

13. Iraq reported that the DMA continued working with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) represented by the CPWDSN to develop a unified database that brings together information on persons with disabilities and mine victims.
14. The Committee would welcome an update on progress made in 2021 on creation of a centralised database and unification of data.

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

15. Like in 2021, Iraq reported that there were still no first aid services available in mine affected communities, and that casualties were transported to hospitals by relatives or any available means. Iraq also reported that medical care was provided by public hospitals for free of charge, and upon discharge for the hospital, survivors are referred to rehabilitation centres as necessary.
16. The Committee would welcome further information on existing efforts to provide effective and efficient first aid to casualties in mine-affected communities, as well as other medical emergency services.

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

17. Iraq reported on availability of referral systems among public hospitals and between hospitals and rehabilitation centres in accordance with referral standard of the MOH.

18. The Committee would welcome further information on the efforts to establish a national referral mechanism to facilitate access to services for mine victims, including by creating and disseminating a national directory of services.

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

19. The Committee would welcome information on progress achieved in 2021 on provisions of rehabilitation, including delivery of prosthesis, orthosis, physiotherapy, assistive devices and occupational therapy.

20. The Committee would also welcome information on integration of rehabilitation into health system in Iraq.

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

21. The Committee would welcome information on availability or access to psychological and psychosocial services including information on the provision of peer-to-peer support in meeting the psychological needs of mine victims in Iraq.

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

22. Iraq reported that loans, job opportunities and pensions were provided by the MOLSA and the CPWDSN. Also, the Committee observed that Iraq reported on the status of mechanisms in place to meet social and economic needs of mine victims, such as the followings:

- ministries and public institutions and companies allocate 5% of their employment opportunity to persons with disabilities in accordance with the Law 38;
- persons with disabilities are exempted from tax at the rate of 10%; and
- 180 persons were supported to find a job in private sector.

23. The Committee would welcome further information on progress made to ensure access to social and economic services in 2021 including information on progress achieved to include the needs of mine victims in national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Iraq.

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

24. The Committee recalls that in 2021 Iraq reported that in accordance with Law 38, specific measures have been taken by various national ministries to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors.

25. The Committee would welcome further information on the measures undertaken to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and humanitarian emergencies.

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

26. Iraq reported that mine victims and their organisations' representatives participate in relevant policies and programmes including through their membership with the CPWDSN.

**CROSS - CUTTING ACTIONS:**

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

27. The Committee would welcome information on financial commitments Iraq made in 2021 to address the needs of mine victims.

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

28. The Committee would welcome information on policies or measures that address the different needs and perspectives of mine victims including age and gender considerations.

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

29. Iraq reported that first aid was not available in mine affected/contaminated communities.

30. The Committee would welcome information on how the international community could be of further support to Iraq's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

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

Actions	Indicators						Additional information request by the Committee (deadline 9 August)
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
#33	# States Parties that have designated a Government entity to coordinate victim assistance activities						
	# 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 development and/or implementation of a national plan on victim assistance.
#34	# States Parties that report that they include mine victims in relevant national policy and support frameworks						
#35	# States Parties that include victims of anti-personnel mines in disability data systems						The Committee would welcome information on progress made in creating a centralised database.
	# 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						
	# States Parties that report having a directory of services in place						The Committee would welcome information on development national directory of services.
#38	# States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability and accessibility of comprehensive rehabilitation services						The Committee would welcome information on progress made in providing comprehensive rehabilitation to mine victims.
	# States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability of psychological and psychosocial support services						The Committee would welcome update on progress made in this regard in 2021.
	# States Parties that have established peer-to-peer services within their national healthcare system						The Committee welcomes Iraq to share 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 Iraq to provide information on efforts made in 2021 to ensure the safety and protection of mine victims in situations 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						
<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						The committee would welcome information on financial commitments made by Iraq for victim assistance implementation
#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 implementation of action 3 in relation to victim assistance.
	# 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						