

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

TÜRKİYE

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – VICTIM ASSISTANCE

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Italy, Slovenia, Uganda (Chair) and Zambia)

Intersessional Meetings

19-21 June 2023

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

Mine casualties

3. Türkiye reported 32 casualties in 2022 including 30 injured and 2 killed, a decrease from the 37 casualties Türkiye reported in 2021 and 67 casualties for 2020.
4. The Committee would welcome further information on all casualties registered by Türkiye.

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. Türkiye reported that the Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC) works with relevant authorities such as the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MOFLSS) and the Ministry of Health (MOH) to ensure girls, women, boys, and men benefit equally from victim assistance services, such as emergency and continuing healthcare, physical rehabilitation, psychological and psycho-social support, economic inclusion.
6. The Committee would welcome further information on efforts made by the designated government entity in 2022 to oversee the integration of victim assistance into broader policies and programmes.

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

7. The Committee would welcome information on implementation of action plans in relation to implementation of victim assistance.

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

8. Türkiye reported that the principle of “Positive Discrimination” is integrated into Article 10 of the Constitution in 2010 which ensures that open areas such as pavements, pedestrian crossings, parks, public transportation vehicles and information and communication systems of public buildings are accessible for the use of persons with disabilities.

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)

9. Türkiye reported that the various national ministries and authorities such as MOFLSS and MOH are involved in victim assistance, and ensures assistance is provided to mine victims through the ministry's programmes.

10. The Committee would welcome additional information on alignment of victim assistance efforts with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

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

11. Türkiye reported that various national agencies including the General Staff, the Ministry of Health and its provincial directorates, the Ministry of Interior, Gendarmerie, General Command and the Ministry of Family and Social Services share information on mine accidents and casualties with the TURMAC.

12. The Committee would welcome information on the availability of a national centralised database with capacity to consolidate information on mine victims and others, such as persons with disabilities, or plans to establish such a database.

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

13. The Committee would welcome information on the provision of first aid and availability of emergency medical care for mine victims.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

14. The Committee would welcome information on the availability of a national referral mechanism and a national directory of services to facilitate access to services including in rural and remote areas for mine victims.

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

15. Türkiye reported that in accordance with Act No. 2828 i.e. Social Services Act and Act No. 5378 i.e. Disability Act, emergency care, healthcare, physical rehabilitation and psychological support are made available through private and State funded rehabilitation centres, and provided the following updates in 2023:

- Persons with disabilities are prioritised for health services within the scope of physical therapy and rehabilitation. Victims with "priority" registration can take advantage of the quota reserved for them and easily arrange an appointment. Auxiliary tools and equipment, as specified within the framework of the provisions of the Law No. 5510 and the Regulation on General Health Insurance Transactions (e.g, payments for medical supplies, consumables, orthoses and prostheses) are made available by the Social Security Institution.
- Mine victims are provided with facilities and modern communication tools by the "Veterans Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Training and Research Hospital (TAF Rehabilitation Centre)". Other services within this complex include Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Hospital,

nursing home, patient house and occupational therapy and professional rehabilitation units supporting social reintegration of mine victims.

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

16. The Committee would welcome information on the availability of psychosocial and peer-to-peer support programmes for mine victims.

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

17. Türkiye reported progress in enabling mine survivors and other persons with disabilities to access social and economic empowerment services, including through the following activities:

- Mine survivors are provided support with employment and other socio-economic assistance to play an active and productive role in their societies;
- Grants of up to 65.000 TL are provided to mine survivors to establish their own job opportunities [incoming generating activities] in 2022;
- Infrastructures have been adjusted to ensure that access to education by persons with disabilities at all levels with necessary supports and incentives provided to them; and,
- Affected family members are trained to provide therapy to victims, especially in remote areas, including male family members, so that the burden of care does not fall exclusively on women and girls.

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

18. The Committee would welcome information on measures in place and progress made to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies.

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

19. The Committee would welcome information on efforts made to strengthen participation and inclusion of mine survivors and their representative organisations into relevant policies and programmes.

CROSS - CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

20. Türkiye reported efforts that demonstrate national ownerships and commitments in meeting the needs of mine victims, particularly in areas of healthcare and socio-economic inclusion.

21. Türkiye also reported allocating a national budget for mine clearance.

22. The Committee would welcome further information on allocation of national financial resources the government of Türkiye has made to implement victim assistance.

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

23. Türkiye reported that in the East of Türkiye, girls, boys, women and men live with the threat of landmines and improvised explosive devices in the areas close to minefields, efforts are adopted to consider gender and diversity and to prevent discrimination and provide equal employment opportunities to women and men from diverse groups. Employment contracts ensure women and men are paid equally for equal work.

24. Türkiye also reported training male family members of mine victims in rural and remote areas to assist with home-based therapy [empowerment] of mine victims, in order to avoid exclusive pressures on female family members.

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

25. The Committee would welcome information on challenges faced by Türkiye in meeting the needs and rights of mine victims, and any support it may require, including from the international community, to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Victim Assistance
Türkiye

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information request by the Committee
#33	# States Parties that have designated a government entity to coordinate victim assistance activities						The Committee would welcome further information on efforts made by the designated government entity in 2022 to oversee the integration of victim assistance into broader policies and programmes.
	# States Parties that have national action plans in place containing specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound objectives and related indicators						The Committee welcomes Türkiye to provide information on implementation of action plans in relation to implementation of victim assistance.
#34	# States Parties that report that they include mine victims in relevant national policy and support frameworks						The Committee would welcome additional information on alignment of victim assistance efforts with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
#35	# States Parties that include victims of anti-personnel mines in disability data systems						The Committee welcomes Türkiye to share information on availability of a national centralised database with capacity to consolidate information on mine victims and others, such as persons with disabilities, or plan to establish such a database.
	# States Parties that disaggregate victim data by gender, age and disability						The Committee would welcome further information on all casualties registered by Türkiye.
#36	# States Parties reporting on efforts to ensure an efficient and effective emergency response to mine accidents						The Committee would welcome information on provision of first aid and availability of emergency medical care to mine victims.
#37	# States Parties that report having a national referral mechanism						The Committee would welcome information on availability of a national referral mechanism and a national directory of services to ensure mine victims' access to services including in rural and remote areas.
	# 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 availability of rehabilitation and its integration of rehabilitation into health systems.
	# States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability of psychological and psychosocial support services						The committee would welcome information progress made in providing psychological and psychosocial support to mine victims.
	# 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 Türkiye 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 organisations in victim assistance planning at the national and local level						The Committee welcomes information on enhancement of mine victims participation and inclusion in 2021.
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS							
#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 further information on allocation of national financial resources the government of Türkiye has made to implement victim assistance.
#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 by Türkiye in meeting the needs and rights of mine victims, and any support it may require, including from the international community, to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.