

Victim Assistance in Tajikistan: then and now

Tajikistan	1	2	3	4	5	6
According to original study	•	•		•	•	•
According to LM 2002		•				•
According to LM 2003						•

Key Developments (LM 2002):

Although the United Nations records that Tajikistan acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty on 12 October 1999, it is not clear that Tajikistan considers itself a State Party formally bound by the treaty. Russia has reconfirmed that it has laid antipersonnel mines inside Tajikistan, reportedly with the consent of the Tajik government. Following the completion in July 2001 of a needs assessment, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has initiated a mine risk education program with the help of the ICRC. Uzbek-laid antipersonnel mines continued to kill and injure civilians and livestock in Tajikistan in 2001.

Indicator 1: The extent to which information on mine victims' demographics and needs is available.

According to original study:

According to LM 2000, a 1997 survey by the Canadian Red Cross prosthetics program in Dushanbe identified an estimated 3,000 amputees throughout Tajikistan.

According to LM 2002:

Uzbek-laid antipersonnel mines continued to kill and injure civilians and livestock in Tajikistan in 2001. However, there is no reliable information on the precise number of casualties as there is no national mechanism for collecting data on landmine incidents. Information on mine incidents is collected by various ministries, and by the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan; however, overall responsibility for data collection lies with the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense.⁴⁹

In 2001, at least 15 people were killed and another 14 injured in reported landmine incidents in Tajikistan near the Tajik-Uzbek border.⁵⁰ The majority of landmine casualties are believed to be civilians who were killed or injured while tending livestock, farming, hunting, collecting firewood, or trying to cross the border to trade. The ICRC collected information on around 40 mine-related incidents in 2001; no details were available on the number of people killed or injured.⁵¹ Other media reports suggest that as many as 50 Tajik citizens have been killed as a result of Uzbek-laid mines.⁵²

Between January and April 2002, at least two people were killed and three injured in reported landmine incidents.⁵³ However, the ICRC reports at least 15 incidents from January to July 2002. In the last six months of 2000, it was reported that 19 people had been killed in 26 mine incidents involving civilians; the number of people injured in these incidents was not reported.⁵⁴

There have been no reported mine casualties along Tajikistan's border with Afghanistan.

According to country report to SC-Victim Assistance Feb 4, 2003:

During the last 5-6 years more than 100 persons were killed and about 100 became disabled because of landmines.

Indicator 2: The extent to which a national disability coordination mechanism exists and recognizes mine victims.

According to original study:

No information available.

According to LM 2002:

No information available.

Indicator 3: The extent to which programs and services for the medical care and rehabilitation of mine victims are available.

According to original study:

On behalf of the ICRC, the Canadian Red Cross is assisting the Tajikistani Ministry of Social Protection and the Tajikistan Red Cross to run a prosthetic workshop and rehabilitation program in Dushanbe.

According to LM 2002:

Tajikistan has historically been one of the poorest republics in Central Asia. The health care system has few resources, with run-down facilities, equipment in poor condition, and medicine and materials in short supply. The ICRC provided five health-care facilities with medicines and supplies. In 2001, these hospitals treated 35 mine survivors.⁵⁵

The Ministry of Health in the northern province of Sughd Oblast has trained local communities in first aid management for mine injuries, and has provided first aid kits to rural medical facilities. Transport to medical facilities is reportedly available to mine casualties if they lack the appropriate transport. The facilities and skills to treat mine casualties in Tajikistan, including in surgical amputation, are also reported to be adequate. Health care is free of charge, but patients are sometimes asked to pay for drugs and medicine, as there is a chronic shortage of such products.⁵⁶

The Dushanbe Orthopedic Center, run jointly by the ICRC and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (MLSP), under the management of the Canadian Red Cross, is the only center producing prostheses for an estimated 3,000 amputees in Tajikistan. In 2001, the center provided physical rehabilitation services and fitted 444 lower limb prostheses, 53 of which were for mine survivors. The RCST and MLSP organized four regional orthopedic seminars and two technicians completed a one-year training course in the repair of polypropylene prostheses. There are also orthopedic satellite centers in Khojent (in the north), Kuliab (in the center), and Khorog (in the south) run by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection.⁵⁷ The ICRC plans to assess the capacity of these centers to perform minor repairs to prostheses. The RCST communicates with those who need prostheses, informs patients of the availability of artificial limb-fitting, and pays for round-trip travel to the Center. As of May 2002, all landmine survivors registered with the Center needing prostheses have either been fitted or soon will be.⁵⁸

According to country report to SC-Victim Assistance Feb 4, 2003:

A trilateral agreement between the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, the national Red Crescent Society and ICRC was created to ensure that mine victims and other people with disabilities who need prostheses are supplied. In 2002, \$US 54,000 was funded for rehabilitation of people with disabilities including mine victims.

Indicator 4: The extent to which programs and services for the social and economic reintegration of mine victims are available

According to original study:

No information available.

According to LM 2002:

No information available.

According to country report to SC-Victim Assistance Feb 4, 2003:

Professional rehabilitation of people with disabilities is undertaken in the lyceum-boarding school for people with disabilities and in a re-established module center "training and reintegration of former military personnel."

Indicator 5: The extent to which mine victims are protected and supported by effective laws and policies.

According to original study:

No information available.

According to LM 2002:

Mine survivors are eligible for a disability pension, as are other people with disabilities who are unable to work. There are three different levels of pensions, depending on the extent and nature of the disability.⁵⁹

According to country report to SC-Victim Assistance Feb 4, 2003:

Provision of pensions, the rights of disabled persons including mine victims and military personnel mine victims, and military personnel are covered under three laws.

Indicator 6: The extent to which there is a disability community advocacy network.

According to original study:

No information available.

According to LM 2002:

No information available.

Endnotes:

⁴⁹ ICRC, "Mine/UXO risk education in Tajikistan," May 2002.

⁵⁰ Landmine Monitor analysis of 10 media reports between January and December 2001.

⁵¹ "Tajikistan: Mine awareness still needed," IRIN UNOCHA, 15 July 2002, accessed at www.irinnews.org.

⁵² In October 2001, RIA Novosti reported that according to the Tajik government press center, Uzbek mines have killed more than 50 people and injured about 50 other since September 2000. NG, a Russian journal, reported in October 2001 that 48 people had been killed and 14 injured by Uzbek mines in 2001. In March 2002, IWPR reported that Dushanbe estimates the number of Tajik fatalities at 40 and the number of injured at 42. In April 2002, the Varoud news agency reported that 53 Tajik civilians have been killed and dozens injured by Uzbek mines. It is not clear, however, whether that figure refers to just Tajik casualties or both Tajik and Uzbek casualties.

⁵³ Landmine Monitor analysis of 3 media reports between January and 10 April 2002.

⁵⁴ For more details see *Landmine Monitor Report 2001*, pp. 811-812.

⁵⁵ "ICRC Special Report, Mine Action 2001," ICRC, Geneva, July 2002, p. 26.

⁵⁶ "Mine Awareness and Advocacy Mission to Central Asia, A Report for UNICEF," Geneva International Centre For Humanitarian Demining, 12 September 2001, pp. 22-23.

⁵⁷ Canadian Red Cross, "Dushanbe Orthopaedic Centre, Annual Report 2001," provided in email to Landmine Monitor (MAC) from Michael Rudiak, Canadian Red Cross, 24 July 2002.

⁵⁸ ICRC, "Mine/UXO risk education in Tajikistan," May 2002; and "Mine Awareness and Advocacy Mission to Central Asia, A Report for UNICEF," Geneva International Centre For Humanitarian Demining, 12 September 2001, pp. 22-23.

⁵⁹ "Mine Awareness and Advocacy Mission to Central Asia, A Report for UNICEF," Geneva International Centre For Humanitarian Demining, 12 September 2001, pp. 22-23.