



Intersessional Meetings, 22 June 2021, 1330-1500 hrs.

Action #35 Oslo Action Plan

Statement on Victim Assistance Context in Somalia,

Somalia has been affected by armed conflict over four decades and no baseline data is available on the extent of people acquired disability through Explosive Ordnance detonation. It is believed a significant number of civilian populations including children have been killed and injured. The landmine and ERW contamination in the country significantly impacted the lives and livelihoods of the civilian population, the security and recovery of the country. Since 2020 about 136 were killed and injured by landmines and ERW with 84% of casualties being amongst the children. Another evolving and potent threat to the civilian population is Improved explosive devices (IED) including mines of improvised nature, civilians were killed and injured mainly in urban areas and major supply routes connecting major cities in Somalia. The Victim Assistance Program in Somalia is in the early stages, several assessments and consultations including the drafting of the national action plan for the victim and disability assistance have been carried out. Currently, five months of consultancy is ongoing which is supported by the EU to strengthen the victim assistance program in Somalia.

Progress on Victim Assistance.

- Somali has signed the international conventions including (CRPD, APMBC, &CCM) which all provide provisions to the state to support victim assistance. The national legislation frameworks on disability and victim assistance in progressing well.
- The national action plan for victim assistance has been developed, waiting for endorsement of the government to start implementation.
- Ongoing consultancy to consolidate VA data, develop VA standards, policy, establish coordination forum and resources mobilization.

Current challenges in Victim Assistance.

- Lack of centralized database for victim data, effective injury surveillance and coordination within the government and international partners.
- The increasing number of IED civilian casualties with little or no victim assistance available in-country.
- Disaggregated data of IED victims remain a key challenge due to the context of the accidents, mass casualties, involvement of armed groups and lack of preparedness for the mine action sector.
- There is a need to develop the national capacity to bring together relevant data and convert it to information and make it available and accessible to all stakeholders.
- Need assessment of landmine/ERW survivors has not been carrying out, thus it is difficult to determine the priority of the affected population.
- Limited funding in overall victim assistance in Somalia and specifically in data management and analysis.