

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – MOZAMBIQUE

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Italy, Chile, Sweden and Thailand)

Intersessional Meetings

30 June – 2 July 2020

Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Mozambique

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

Mine casualties in 2019

2. The Committee observed that Mozambique has not reported new mine casualties. The Committee also observed that Mozambique indicated that it is considering compiling gender and age disaggregated data on mine survivors through an upcoming statistical survey of persons with disabilities, that will be carried out in cooperation with the National Statistics Institute.

Establish or strengthen of a centralised database (Action #35)

3. The Committee would welcome information on progress made in establishing or strengthening of a centralised database for compiling and maintaining information on persons killed or injured by mines and their needs and challenges, disaggregated by gender, age and disability. The Committee would also welcome information on how the information is made available to relevant stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive response in addressing the needs of mine victims.

Integrating victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks and designation of a government entity to oversee the integration (Action #33)

4. The Committee observed that Mozambique reported that the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Affairs (MOGCSA) is the official entity in charge of coordinating activities in the realm of protection of persons in situation of vulnerability, including mine victims. Mozambique reported that the National Council for Social Affairs, under the MOGCSA, leads country's social affairs activities and coordination mechanism which encompasses the implementation of programmes and plans for persons with disabilities, including mine victims.
5. The Committee observed that Mozambique reported that legal frameworks are inclusive of the rights of persons with disabilities and they ensure persons with disabilities are not discriminated against and enjoy an equal right.

Developing and implementing measurable, realistic and time-bound national action plan (Action #33)

6. The Committee observed that Mozambique reported that the process to develop a new "Action Plan for People with Disabilities including Mine Victims" have begun and the new plan will consider the Oslo Action Plan's commitments on Victim Assistance.

7. The Committee would encourage consideration of gender and diversity in the new Action Plan and the availability of resources, for its implementation.

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

8. The Committee would welcome information on progress in removing physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal or communication barriers in favour of increasing mine survivors' access to services in Mozambique.

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. The Committee observed that Mozambique reported efforts undertaken by the MOGCSA that indicate addressing the rights and needs of mine victims as an integral part of social affairs and disabilities policies and programmes.
10. The Committee would welcome further information on involvement of other sectors, such as education, development, human rights and civil society stakeholders in Victim Assistance and information on efforts to align Victim Assistance activities with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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

11. The Committee observed that Mozambique reported that mine victims benefit from various services including healthcare provided by hospitals and mobile health care brigades assistance. The Committee would welcome further information on availability of first aid and pre-hospital care.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

12. The Committee would welcome information on the existence of or plan to develop national referral mechanism and directory of services in relation to enhancement of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities' access to services.

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

13. The Committee would welcome information on the existence of or plan to develop national referral mechanism and directory of services in relation to enhancement of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities' access to services.

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

14. The Committee would welcome information on availability of psychological, psychosocial including peer to peer support services and information on the number of mine survivors that received such services in 2019.

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

15. The Committee would welcome information on progress made to enhance access to social and economic services and efforts that may be taken to ensure inclusion of victim assistance into Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) frameworks in Mozambique.

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

16. The Committee would welcome information on any measures in place to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

17. The Committee would welcome information on progress achieved to strengthen inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in policies and programmes that affect them.

Challenges in implementation of Mozambique's Victim Assistance Commitments

18. The Committee observed that Mozambique reported mine survivors facing challenges in terms of access to employment and access to public transportation and indicated the readiness of the Government of Mozambique to address such challenges with the support of international partners, in accordance with the Oslo Action Plan.

19. The Committee would also welcome any specific proposal Mozambique may have on how the Committee and the international community could be of further support to Mozambique's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance obligations.