

Date 1st July 2020

The Presidency of the mine ban convention
H.E Osman Abufatima Adam Mohammed,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Sudan to the UN in Geneva.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen

Statement on Victim Assistance Implementation South Sudan.

Accept my highest appreciation to participate on the 2020 intersessional meeting of the convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and their Destruction taking place virtually from 30 June – 2nd July 2020.

The following are progress made on Victims Assistance to fulfill the convention obligations from South Sudan.

- The Ministry of Gender child and social welfare is mandated by the government to oversee the victim assistance program and its integration into broader national plans, National mine action authority with other stakeholders only work in close collaboration. They have developed national disability & inclusion policy 2015 and national social protection policy framework that support Victim Assistance work in South Sudan.
- South Sudan has developed a draft national disability plan of action with support from EU through ISU .The Task force are currently working on the draft document then the approval will be done by the council of minister by end of 2020. However CONVID 19 pandemic has delayed this process because the Republic of South Sudan ban all public gathering and has taken precaution on the social distance in all offices otherwise it could have been finalized by now.
- Efforts are in place to complete the ratification process of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the head of specialized committee on human right at the national legislative Assembly updated the rectification document and pass it for approval. But CONVID 19 pandemic has delayed this process because the parliamentary sessions are suspended.
- The national ministry of gender child and social welfare organized and chaired monthly coordination meetings co-chair by National Mine Action Authority. At the moment the meetings are suspended because of CONVID 19.
- South Sudan national humanitarian response plan and/disaster mitigation, preparedness and management policy consider the needs of persons with disability .The humanitarian response target hard to reach locations and enable delivery of quality integrated services to vulnerable population including persons with disabilities.
- The national Ministry of General Education is promoting the rights of all in education by including children with disabilities and ensures great emphasis on access to basic services by bringing in sustainable policies, laws and regulation that supports the disable people in line with the National Disability Inclusive policy 2015.

Challenges facing Victim Assistance implementation

1. South Sudan has continued to record increase on the number of mine/ERW accident, in total there are 5,114 mine and UXO victims recorded from 2011-2020, 3,716 injured and 1,398 are killed. Among the injured there are 1,521 men, 241 women, 592 boys and 123 girls and 1,239 not specified. Among the killed there 463 men, 113 women, 195 boys, 54 girls and 573 not

specified. However, the total number of AP mine victims is projected to increase when assessment needs will be conducted.

2. There are inadequate services (rehabilitation, medical, social economic inclusion, psychosocial support services) to mine/ ERW survivors and PWDs in South Sudan. There is need to support stakeholders to meet the needs and enhance quality of life for mine/ERW survivors and victims' families. The service providers are few and are concentrated within the Capital Juba that cannot be accessible by many from the states considering the mobility difficulties.
3. There is need to build capacities because we have few expert working on Victim Assistance most of them employed by NGOs coming from outside South Sudan.
4. The majority of the PWDs lack social economic support to create employment they turn to be street beggars.
5. There is no legislation for persons with disability in South Sudan, the transitional constitution and the national disability and inclusive policy 2015 provided a foundation to protect the rights of people with disabilities and people with special needs.
6. No funding to conduct needs assessment for the mine/ERW in South Sudan.
7. None the less conflict still continued in other part of the country affecting PWDs who are left behind and suffer abuses.

In conclusion Victim Assistance pillar is one of the less funded in South Sudan since the government join the mine ban convention 2011. South Sudan received much funding to support clearance and risk education to enable it meet the clearance deadline compared to Victim assistance. However the government will continue to ensure legal framework are in place(laws, policies , standards, procedures) to prevent , protect and support the needs and rights of all persons with disability. We would like to take this opportunity to appreciate all the donors /international non-governmental actors that have been funding and working for Victim Assistance program in South Sudan.We urge all international community to continue funding Victim Assistance program to enable us achieve inclusive development where there is no discrimination, barrier, communication challenges erected by the society towards PWDs in South Sudan.

Thank you

Victim Assistance Coordinator
South Sudan