

**STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE ANTI-
PERSONAL MINE BAN CONVENTION**
9 to 13 February 2004

Introduction

The number of land mine victims in Angola has grown considerably in the last years, due fundamentally to the need of the populations to circulate from one place to another and also the need to come back to their original places.

Angola is unfortunately the country in the world with the higher number of landmines victims, that is estimated to be around 80 hundred.

The Angolan government is aware of the gravity of the problem and has been working in collaboration with different national and international partners. Nevertheless all the efforts made by the Government, we think that the international help is crucial in order to solve the problem of socio-professional and economic reintegration of land mine victims. It is important to underline that in Angola there is no difference between land mine victims and handicap, with that in mind, the Government created a National Program for the integration of people with physical disabilities that includes victims of landmines.

Main Problem

The main problems that affect victims of landmines in particular and people with disabilities in general are:

Related to Social assistance

- Familiar reintegration and social integration;
- Medical assistance and medicines;
- Housing and personal domestic items;
- Psycho-social follow-up;
- Information about the deficiency and inequality of opportunities;
- Recognize the value of the person with disabilities in the society, and give them the resources needed for their participation in the economic, social and cultural life of the country.

Related to the delivery of services

- Information about the disposability of services for people with disabilities like physical rehabilitation, compensation materials and proteases;
- Access to education and professional training;
- Pension and promotion of social nets;
- It is important to emphasize that the adoption of the present policy for protection of people with disabilities and its strategy of implementation will permit an harmonization of actions among all social partners, in order to reverse the actual picture and permit that the target population regain and consolidate its dignity.

Opportunities

It is sanctioned the direct applicability of the International Instruments related to the rights of a person with disabilities, in the juridical system of Angola.

- The constitutional law consecrate equal rights for all citizens without racial, religious or social discrimination;
- Existence of orthopedic centers, in some provinces of the country;
- Existence of national capacity in the expertise to build proteases;
- Existence of a multisectorial coordination group directly focused for problems of people with disabilities;
- Reformulation of the national legislation (law base for people with disabilities);
- Existence of schools with specialized and integrated education;
- Existence of International Organizations, working in the sector of physical rehabilitation.

Constrains

- Lack of financial decentralization;
- Deficient formulation of sectorial policies and the respective operational plans;
- Some difficulties in the articulation between the key actors in the work with people with disabilities;
- Difficulties in the national registry of people with disabilities and in the information system;
- Some difficulties to access all the needs of people with disabilities;
- Deficient monitoring and evaluation;
- Lack of a list of services available;
- Low quality of services delivered;
- Insufficient logistical support;

Objectives of the National Program of Integration of people with disabilities

The objectives of the program are:

General Objective

The general objective of the program is to guarantee a life with dignity to a person living with disability in conditions of equality with other citizens.

Specific Objectives

- To give more dynamism to the implementation of the Program for Integration of a person with disability, to elaborate and implement the respective plans of articulation with the strategy to fight poverty;
- To adapt the local and central structures of the State and partners to promote the social integration of a person with disability;
- Promote the socio-economical reintegration of a person with disability;

-
- Disseminate the participation of the community in regard to protection of a person with disability at national level, emphasizing it's social and familial role;
 - Involve the community and entities (formal and informal structures) in the decision making process to assure the sustainability and the leadership in the process of protection of a person with disabilities, based on cultural, ethnical aspects and the gender equality;
 - Guarantee the vertical and horizontal coordination of the society intervention in general in the protection of a disabled person;
 - Pointing up the need to improve the conditions of access to services of Rehabilitation, Integration and or socio- economic Reintegration of a disabled person;
 - Promote the harmonization and definition of a juridical picture in accordance with the actual reality, bearing in mind the legal diplomas of the basic law of social protection, the ant-project basic law for a person with disabilities and other legislation.

Target population

This program is for people with civil disabilities with congenital or acquired causes:

- Directly affected by the armed conflict;
- Women heads of families;
- With two or more disabilities;
- In extreme poverty (with a family of more than five people);
- Without any income;
- Families with one member or more with a disability, incapacitated to do any kind of remunerated work;
- The organized Civil Society (national non governmental organizations working with people with disability).

Evaluation of the economic and social impact of anti-personnel mines in the population

The project for evaluation of the Economic and social impact of anti-personnel mines and it's effect in the population, that will be carried out shortly by SAC " Survey Action Center" financed by the Government of Canada and the Angolan Government, as well as the implementation of the national evaluation project of the situation of the victims of mines and other projects in the area of aid and assistance to victims of mines already published in the portfolio of action in mines of the Unite Nations for 2004 that are waiting for financing, will be the mechanisms for the solution of the problem in an extensive way permitting also the identification of other existent victims in remote areas of the country.

Thank you very much.