

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – MOZAMBIQUE

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Algeria, Ecuador, Sweden and Thailand)
Intersessional Meetings
22-24 June 2021

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

Mine casualties

2. The Committee observed that Mozambique has not reported new mine casualties in 2020. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Mozambique reported planning to collect gender and age disaggregated data on mine survivors through an upcoming statistical survey of persons with disabilities that was to be carried out in cooperation with the National Statistics Institute. The Committee would welcome update in this regard, and information with regards to disaggregation mine victims' data.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACTIONS:

Strengthen partnerships and integrate victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks and designation of a government entity to oversee the integration (Action #33 and also Actions #1 and #6)

3. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Mozambique reported that the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Affairs (MOGCSA) is the entity responsible to coordinate activities related to protection of persons in situation of vulnerability, including mine victims and that the Ministry has a designated coordination body, the National Council for Social Affairs, overseeing among other activities, the implementation of programmes and plans regarding persons with disabilities, including mine victims.
4. The Committee would welcome further information on efforts made to strengthen partnerships with other sectors such as development and human rights, in favour of meeting the needs and rights of mine survivors and persons with disabilities.

Develop and implement measurable, realistic and time-bound national action plan (Action #33 and also Action #2)

5. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Mozambique reported launching a process to develop a new action plan for persons with disabilities including mine victims, and that the OAP's victim assistance commitments were considered in the new plan.
6. The Committee would welcome information on the status of the new action plan, and if it has been developed and adopted, the Committee would welcome an electronic copy of the plan.

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

7. The Committee observed that Mozambique reported raising awareness among people and communities about the rights of persons with disabilities and providing counselling to affected families and communities to cope with the new reality of their affected family or community members [survivors].
8. The Committee would welcome further information on other progress made in removing other barriers such as physical, social or communication barriers that may hinder the participation of mine survivors and persons with disabilities 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 that mine victims have been included in national frameworks developed for the implementation of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), such as a national plan on disability and victim assistance, as well as all other development plans such as National Basic Social Security Strategy (2016-2024) are inclusive of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Establish or strengthen a centralised database / national information management system (Action #35 and also Action #9)

10. The Committee observed that Mozambique reported collecting data on mine victims through medical assistance emergencies, and that the health sector records data of people who receive health services.
11. The Committee would welcome information on availability of or plan to develop a national centralised database, such as disability or health and injury surveillance and information on the integration or consolidation of mine victims into such a centralised database.

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

12. The Committee observed that Mozambique reported making efforts to bring health services closer to communities, and that emergency assistance have been made available through main hospitals including to mine victims.
13. The Committee would welcome additional information on progress made in increasing access to emergency response and healthcare services in Mozambique for mine victims.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

14. The Committee observed that Mozambique reported the availability of a referral system within the health sector, where people are referred through district health and social action services and community-based organisations to appropriate services. The report also stated that a directory of services exists in some provinces.
15. The Committee would encourage Mozambique to develop a nationwide directory of services to facilitate access to mine survivors and other persons with disabilities.

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

16. The Committee observed that Mozambique reported that rehabilitation services have been made available through main hospitals, and indicated that in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic rehabilitation services were not expanded.

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

17. The Committee observed that Mozambique reported that affected families and communities were provided with psychosocial support when they visited the main public hospitals.

18. The Committee would welcome further information on the number of mine victims - boys, girls, women and men – that have benefited from psychosocial or psychological support, and it would also welcome information on availability of peer to peer support in Mozambique.

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

19. The Committee observed that Mozambique reported providing assistance through the National Basic Social Security Strategy (2016-2024) and that affected families and communities have been provided with compensation and basic social assistance.

20. The Committee would welcome further information on the number of mine victims - boys, girls, women and men – that have benefited from social and economic support, and information on integration of their social and economic needs in broader national development, education, poverty reduction and other frameworks including in remote and rural areas.

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

21. The Committee observed that Mozambique reported that the government prioritises the safety and protection of mine survivors in all public processes of evacuation, emergency assistance and resettlement.

22. The Committee would welcome information on national frameworks that indicate the integration of such assistance to mine survivors in Mozambique.

Strengthening inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in all matters that affect them (Action #41 and also Action #4)

23. The Committee observed that Mozambique reported that representatives of mine survivors and persons with disabilities are included in the National Council of Social Action, and through their memberships in the Council they participate in relevant planning and coordination efforts.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS:

Demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including [...] by making financial and other commitments to implementation (Action #1)

24. The Committee observed that Mozambique reiterated its commitment to meeting the needs of persons with disabilities and ensuring to leave no one behind, grounded on the principles of human rights and inclusion. Mozambique also reported that while no specific funds have been allocated, persons with disabilities benefit from resources allocated to mainstream programmes, and efforts were made to leave no one behind.

Ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered (Action #3)

25. The Committee observed that Mozambique reported that gender equality and diversity were taken into account in victim assistance relevant activities and it would welcome further information on the measures put in place in this regard.

Challenges in implementation of Victim Assistance Commitments (Action #8)

26. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Mozambique reported mine survivors were facing challenges in terms of access to employment and access to public transportation.

27. The Committee would welcome information on how the international community could be of further support to Mozambique's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.