

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – SUDAN

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

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Sudan 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 Sudan reported 22 casualties in 2020 in Blue Nile, South Kordofan, Central and North Darfur states, showing a decrease of 33% than the year before. Sudan reported a total of 2,225 casualties of which 1,601 persons have survived and 624 persons have been killed.
3. The Committee appreciates Sudan's efforts in disaggregating victims' data by gender, age and including information on locations of accidents and it would welcome additional information on impairments/disability of the survivors.

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)

4. The Committee recalls that in the past Sudan reported that the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) remained responsible for the implementation of victim assistance, and that the NMAC worked with collaboration and coordination with relevant stakeholders such as the National Council of Persons with Disabilities, National Prosthetic Centres, the Red Cross, UN agencies and other national and international stakeholders to implement victim assistance.
5. The Committee would welcome further information on progress made in strengthening partnerships with relevant national agencies to enhance the integration of victim assistance into broader national frameworks.

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

6. The Committee recalls that in the past Sudan reported implementing an action plan that was to be renewed in 2020. The Committee observed that Sudan reported that COVID-19 pandemic has caused delays in 2 victim assistance projects .
7. The Committee encourages Sudan to develop a new plan of action to ensure continuity and the achievement of the country's victim assistance commitments.

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

8. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Sudan reported that regulations were enacted with regards to accessibility of public buildings and that a national standard was being implemented to increase accessibility of public transportation.
9. The Committee would welcome an update on progress in this regard, and information on efforts made to remove other kinds of barriers such as social, cultural, political, attitudinal and communication barriers.

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)

10. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Sudan reported cross-governmental efforts to meet the needs of mine victims and that victim assistance efforts were aligned with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.

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

11. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Sudan reported the existence of a centralised database on disabilities under the Supreme Council of Persons with Disabilities.
12. The Committee would welcome information on integration of the mine casualty data collected by the NMAC into the disability centralised database.

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

13. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Sudan reported that limited first aid was available and that availability of such support was lacking in mined affected areas.
14. The Committee would welcome an update on efforts made in 2020 to address the shortages of first aid in mined areas.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

15. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Sudan reported that a national referral mechanism was in place and that a national directory of services to be developed by the Ministry of Health, Supreme Council for Disabled Persons and Prosthetic Centre in coordination with NMAC.
16. The Committee would welcome an update on progress made in developing a national directory of services.

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

17. The Committee observed that Sudan reported that some 60 mine victims have benefited from rehabilitation and other supports during the first five months in 2021. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Sudan reported on availability of physical rehabilitation services bigger cities.
18. The Committee would welcome further information on efforts made in providing outreach rehabilitation service and on availability of assistive devices, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy.

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

19. The Committee observed that Sudan reported providing psychological and other supports to some 60 mine victims during the first five months of 2021.

20. The Committee would welcome additional information on progress made in establishing or strengthening of peer-to-peer services within their national healthcare system.

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

21. The Committee observed that Sudan reported that comprehensive support including social and economic assistance were provided to 85 persons between January and May 2021, with support of international cooperation.

22. The Committee would welcome additional information on efforts made in 2020 to increase mine victims' access to education, capacity-building, employment referral services, microfinance institutions, business development services, rural development and social protection programmes, including in rural and remote areas.

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

23. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Sudan reported that the needs of persons with disabilities including mine survivors were integrated into a national disaster management policy.

24. The Committee would welcome further information on the special measures included in the national disaster management policy on safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risk and emergencies, such as COVID-19 pandemic.

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

25. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Sudan reported that persons with disabilities including mine survivors are included in relevant national policies, plans and programmes. The Committee would welcome an update on progress made in this regard.

CROSS – CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

26. The Committee would welcome information on financial and other commitments the government of Sudan made in 2020 to implement victim assistance.

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

27. The Committee observed that Sudan reported that gender equality and the diverse needs of the people who benefit from mine action have been taken into consideration in all mine action activities including victim assistance.

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

28. The Committee observed that Sudan reported that last year the COVID-19 pandemic has affected victim assistance activities.

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