



**The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

**Ministry of Women and Social Affairs**

Progress Report on Oslo Action Plan

(Action Points No 33 to 41 of Victim Assistance)

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The government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is undertaking various favorable conditions by developing action oriented policies and programs to enable persons with disabilities in general and land mine survivors in particular to be active participants in all spheres of life and the development agenda of the country. Thus, this report highlights recent developments concerning legislation measures, institutional coordination, health care services, education to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), employment to PWDs, national data collection and access to rehabilitation as well basic services.

Because of the Ethiopian government unreserved effort to improve the life situation of PWDs and survivors, the government assigned relevant government entity which oversight the issue of Persons with Disabilities in general and land mine victims in particular. Under Ministry of Women and Social Affairs the Disability Affairs Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Office is established and functioning starting from 2019. The Disability Affairs CEO has exhibited remarkable result after its establishment in improving the life of Persons with Disabilities. Creation of massive awareness and public mobilization, expanding rehabilitation services and transferring of PRCs for Ministry of health to ensure better physical rehabilitation, supporting assistive devices for the poor, Preparing Psychosocial and Social rehabilitation Manual for PRCs, drafting injured military personnel separate rehabilitation and training center establishment draft proclamation, ratify and submitted African Disability Protocol for government for approval and signature, prepared Ethiopian Comprehensive disability act to submit to the government for approval, strengthening national UNCRPD implementation Monitoring Committee and continuously conduct monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the UNCRPD by government executive organs to improve inclusion, Accessibility and right protection and promotion of Persons with Disabilities are some of the major achievements of the Disability Affairs Chief Executive Officer.

A National Plan of Action (NPA) on Human Right has been issued by the Ethiopian Council of Ministers and endorsed by the House of people's representative's in order to promote the full realization of all human rights in the country. The NPA on human rights has devoted to outline a separate chapter/thematic area regarding the rights of vulnerable segments of the population including persons with disabilities and land mine victims. A National Steering Committee composed of high government officials Chaired by the Federal Ministry of Justice has been established, to which Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA) is involved in this exercise to promote the right of PWDs including landmine survivors. The government has started drafting the second Ethiopian Disability Action Plan recently.

The General Audit and Human Right Commission of Ethiopia conducted a performance audit and produced the report about the implementation of disability programs and UNCRPD in the country to take a corrective measures on structural adjustment and service provisions to improve the living condition of PWDs . Awareness rising with the collaboration and participation of

DPOs, the government of Ethiopia has been organizing enormous awareness raising programs for government and relevant non government organizations, implementers, DPOs and general public.

Concerning multi-sectoral efforts as a prerequisite of effective policy implementation and better inclusion inter ministerial and inter- sectoral coordination mechanisms were established consisting of GOV't, DPOs and Civil society organizations. This coordination mechanism mainly serving to improve inclusion of persons with disability in general and land mine survivor and mainstreaming of disability issues in all development agendas. Aside from the intervention being implemented by government institutions and development partners, there is a Federation of Associations of Persons with Disabilities which is an umbrella organization of 32 organization of persons with different type of disabilities plus survivor organization who are working in the areas of socio economic development and the right protection issue of persons with disabilities, and also serving as a voice for the right of Ethiopian persons with disabilities The Government of Ethiopia is supporting OPDs technically and financially after the ratification of UNCRPD to strengthening OPDs. Participation of OPDs and veteran associations is practically ensured in the planning, supervision and reporting stages of the government.

As mine risk education is very important in victim assistance endeavors the government is tried to work with different civil societies to expand mine risk education in identified and suspected mine affected areas of the country. But much effort and international cooperation is needed in this regard as the work is very important in reducing risks and saving lives.

Concerning situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, though Ethiopia does not have specific strategy on PWDs and land mine victims in this respect, it does have disaster risk management strategy prepared and PWDs are benefiting out of it. Practically, as well, the Ethiopian government is affording much attention for persons with disabilities in various emergency situations. For instance, in the Ethiopian government responses to the Tigray emergency and flood emergencies in Afar region, PWDs received significant attention and supplies.

There are more than 19 public and private rehabilitation centers in the country which are in providing of prosthetic, orthotic and other assistive device services. There are also other few organizations like Survivor Recovery and Rehabilitation Organization (SRARO) engaged in Victim Assistance and risk education programs. There is a referral and outreach rehabilitation implementation mechanisms to support victims. Most of the hospitals in the country provide orthopedic and physiotherapy services. ICRC played a pivotal role in the provision of raw materials for the production of prosthesis, orthotics and other assistive devices. The government of Ethiopia has developed the Bachelor of Science & Master of Science curriculums to train prosthesis and orthotics professionals. A National physical Rehabilitation service provision standard has developed. In the Year 2019/20 many number of Persons with disabilities have got assistive devices including wheel chairs, prosthetic& orthotic appliances and physiotherapy services.

The government of Ethiopia has prepared and endorsed directive number 41/2015 and gave opportunity for Person with physical disabilities and bilateral blindness to import tax free personal vehicles. So far, above 5000 PWDs (many of them are landmine victims) have got a tax free imported car support services from MOLSA to resolve their mobility problem.

Concerning health care services expansion of universal and quality health care services was one of the main strategic themes of the health sector Development plan. in our Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II). In line with this general direction, with the involvement and active participation of the community and Health Extension Program Workers (HEPW), the government has given particular focus for the improvement of quality health services intended with disability inclusions. A general increase in medical care and rehabilitation services was registered. Access to health care increased and which allowed many survivors and Persons with Disabilities to access reproductive and other basic health services. The Federal Ministry of Health has prepared two guidelines to include Persons with disabilities and landmine survivor in health service provisions. These guidelines are the National guideline of Physical Rehabilitation in Referral Hospitals and Guideline for disability mainstreaming in Health Sector. The National disability mainstreaming guideline in Health Sector focuses on special health provision for Persons with disabilities with particular consideration on physical accessibility of government and private hospitals, Clinics, and health posts. Additional comprehensive guideline, procedures and standards on rehabilitation services and assistive device are prepared.

The Government of Ethiopia is committed to enhance inclusive education system using different policies, strategies and plans. The Education and Training Policy of Ethiopia 1994 has laid the ground for the development of the education sector as a whole. One of its main objectives has been to provide basic education for all, in recognizing the rights of Persons with Disabilities and gifted children to education by stating; “to enable both the disabled and the gifted learn in accordance with their potential and needs.” In the year 2021/2022, around 100,000 children with disabilities were enrolled in schools from pre-primary to secondary education. Awareness raising workshop was conducted for 1500 education and social sector workers. MOWSA has been working with Ministry of Education for the expansion of inclusive education and special needs education at different layer of education programs. A Committee, whose members drawn from the two Ministries was established and making a close follows up for the implementation of the program.

When we come to National Data Collection the Ethiopian Central Statistics Agency (CSA) has planned to carry out a nationwide census in the 2018/19, however due the security reason, it was not possible to conduct census on time. To overcome all problems related to the former errors of counting the disabled individuals of the 2007 census, MOWSA and Federation of Ethiopian Association of Persons with Disabilities are working closely with the CSA to assure formulations of procedures, standards and measurements to make the upcoming nationwide census inclusive.

Finally, to improve the lives of landmine survivors in the context of Oslo Action Plan, the Ethiopian government committed to ensure the full, equal and effective participation of PWDs including landmine survivors in the community in respect to human right approach. We also work to improve policies and legal frame works for PWDs to better address assistances to landmine survivors. As far as challenges and resource limitations are concerned with rehabilitation centers, economic integration of the landmine survivors, staff capacity building and the issues of reliable data, we seriously need international cooperation and assistance which would be believed that enable us to enhance our effort in assisting Persons with disabilities in general and landmine survivors in particular.