




APM; Victims; Assistance in Ethiopia

APMBC Inter-sessional Meeting

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Presentation Outline

- Recent Endeavours and Improvements
- Main Challenges and Obstacles
- Main Priority Areas



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1. Recent Endeavours and Improvements

- The government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has been developing action oriented policies, programs and strategies to enable Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in general and landmine survivors in particular to be active participants in the development endeavours of the country.
- There have been recent developments concerning legislation measures, institutional coordination, health care services, education and employment opportunities for PWDs, national data collection and access to rehabilitation as well basic services.

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Recent Endeavours...

- Inter-Ministerial and inter-sectoral coordinating mechanisms were established consisting of Government Organizations (GOs), Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).
- There are eight National and eleven Regional Associations of PWDs plus Landmine Survivors Organization in Ethiopia.
- These key actors have been working in the areas of socioeconomic development and in promoting disability rights, serving as the voices of PWDs, protecting their dignity and supporting them to exercise their potentials.

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Recent Endeavours...



- At the national level, there is Federation of Ethiopian Associations of Persons with Disabilities (FEAPD) serving as an umbrella organization consisting of 21 national regional associations of PWDs.
- FEAPD plays a crucial role of coordinating various rights promotion and socioeconomic development activities in Ethiopia.
- Since 2019, the Ethiopian Gov't has allocated about 21 million birr in addition to office and educational materials so as to strengthen OPDs.



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Recent Endeavours...



- MoLSA/ MoWSA has been providing continuous capacity building and technical supports to OPDs and Landmine Survivors' Organization.
- Participation of OPDs and War Veterans' Associations is practically ensured in the planning, supervision and reporting stages of the government.
- There are War Veterans' Associations whose members include victims of landmines.
- They provide health care, awareness raising training, physical rehabilitation services, including Prosthetic & Orthotic materials, mobility devices as well vocational training and employment opportunities.



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Recent Endeavours...



- The government supports war veterans/ landmine victims financially, materially and in providing physical rehabilitation service.
- There are a total of 21 Physical Rehabilitation Centers (PRCs) in Ethiopia which have signed an MoU with the Disability Affairs Directorate of MoWSA; 14 are governmental and 7 have been operated by NGOs. The PRCs provide prosthetic, orthotic and other assistive devices to PWDs including landmine victims.
- There is also Survivors Recovery and Rehabilitation Organization (SRARO) which is directly engaging in Victims Assistance Programs in Ethiopia.



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Recent Endeavours...



- The development of the National Plan of Action on Human Rights is also essential; it involves a National Steering Committee chaired by the Federal General Attorney and promotes the rights of PWDs including landmine survivors.
- The Disability Affairs Directorate was established in April 2019 under MoLSA (the current MoWSA), exclusively dedicated to the issues of PWDs and victim assistance in Ethiopia.
- The General Audit and Human Rights Commission of Ethiopia conducted a performance audit and produced a report on the implementation of disability programs and UNCRPD in the country to take corrective measures in structural adjustment and service provisions so as to improve the living and working conditions of PWDs in general and victim assistance particularly.



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Recent Endeavours...



- In collaboration with OPDs and development partners, the government has been launching yearly advocacy and awareness creation campaigns all over the country, in order to improve the participation and benefits of victims of land mine and PWDs.
- In January 2020, the National UNCRPD Implementation Coordination Committee conducted supervision of the implementation status of UNCRPD in the government executive organs and submitted the supervision report to the Parliament and the Prime Minister's Office.



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Recent Endeavours...



- Similarly, health care services have been improved in Ethiopia, supported by the Health Extension Program which involves about 40,000 Health Extension Workers (HEWs) in every village.
- A general increase in medical care and rehabilitation services has been registered. Access to health care has increased allowing PWDs in general and landmine survivors in particular to access reproductive and other basic health services.
- In 2020/21, about 37,000 PWDs and land mine survivors received free medical treatments in the Physical Rehabilitation Centers.



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Recent Endeavours...



- Regarding access to Basic Services in Ethiopia, there are Urban and Rural Productive Safety Net Programs, supporting about 8 million beneficiaries (economically and physically highly disadvantaged citizens, including landmine victims).
- In 2020/21, many PWDs obtained assistive devices including wheelchairs, crutches as well as prosthetic & orthotic appliances; besides, physiotherapy service was rendered.
- The Ethiopian Government had prepared and endorsed directive number 41/2015 and has been supporting persons with physical disabilities and bilateral blindness to import tax free personal vehicles. So far, about **5,500** PWDs (including landmine victims) have benefited from this service.



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Recent Endeavours...



- The Disability Inclusive Education and Training Policies and Programs in Ethiopia also constitute the supportive systems for PWDs and landmine survivors.
- The Rights to Employment for Persons with Disabilities Proclamation (Proc. No. 568/2008) makes null and void any law, practice, custom, attitude and other discriminatory situations that limit equal opportunities for PWDs, creating better employment opportunities for such citizens.



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Recent Endeavours...



- The new and comprehensive draft Ethiopian Disability Act is being finalized to be submitted to the Ethiopian Gov't for endorsement.
- The Establishment of Comprehensive Training and Rehabilitation Center for War Veterans and PWDs is under way.
- The enactment of African Disability Protocol is also in good progress.
- In general, MoWSA develops and implements policies, strategies, programs and projects which benefit Women, Children, Youth, PWDs, Elderly Persons, landmine survivors and other vulnerable groups in Ethiopia.



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2. Main Challenges and Obstacles



- It is not easy to obtain accurate data on the number of PWDs in general and landmine victims in particular; the postponement of the 2018/19 national census has got a big share of the problem;
- Similarly, it is a serious challenge to obtain data on the number of PWDs and land mine survivors employed in various organizations in the country;
- Gaps in economic reintegration of landmine victims;
- Lack of information and limited access to Physical Rehabilitation Centres;



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Main Challenges.....



- Resource constraints in the Physical Rehabilitation Centres, including trained technicians and professionals as well as equipment and materials;
- Financial constraint in implementing rehabilitation programs for PWDs in general and landmine survivors in particular;
- The unresolved hostilities and potential conflicts in some parts of the country will contribute additional land mine victims specially in Amhara, Afara and Tigray regions of in the north part of the country;
- Financial and professional constraints for Mine Risk education;
- Climate Changes: Droughts followed by floods and the concomitant overstretched resources at national and international levels;



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3. Main Priority Areas



- MoWSA and FEAPD have been working closely with the Central Statistical Agency (CSA) to ensure proper formulations of procedures, standards and measurements in the next national census whereby the number of PWDs in general and that of landmine victims are accurately documented;
- Proper mapping of OPDs and development of database;
- Strengthening OPDs so as to increase the participation and benefits of PWDs (including those of landmine victims);



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Main Priority...



- Following up and supporting the proper implementation of UNCRPD, APMB Convention and other legal and policy frameworks intended to protect the participation, rights and benefits of PWDs;
- The Ethiopian government has been highly committed to ensuring the full, equal and effective participation of PWDs including landmine survivors in the political and socioeconomic activities of their respective communities in line with human rights-based approach.



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Main Priority...



- Working in close collaboration with OPDs and development partners to finalize the pending legal and policy documents;
- Establishment of the War Veterans and PWDs Comprehensive Training and Rehabilitation Center;
- Promoting Green Legacy and tackling the devastating effects of Climate Changes;
- Green and Inclusive Economy to ensure balanced and sustainable national development; and
- Inclusive Education, Health, Training and Job Opportunities: Leaving No One Behind!!



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Thank You!

