

PRELIMINARY MID-TERM ASSESMENT

SOUTH SUDAN

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – VICTIM ASSISTANCE

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Algeria, Ecuador, Italy and Uganda)

Intersessional Meetings

20-22 June 2022

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

Mine casualties

3. South Sudan reported 38 casualties in 2021, showing a decrease from 57 reported the year before. Sudan reported a total of 654 direct victims registered between 2011 and 2021 in addition to 5,145 victims that were recorded prior to 2011.
4. The Committee would welcome further disaggregated information on casualties' gender, age, and disability. The Committee would also welcome information on indirect victims, such as affected families.

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)

5. South Sudan reported that the Government entity assigned to oversee the integration of victim assistance into broader national plans has been the Ministry of Gender Child and Social Welfare (MOGCSW), which is also the led Ministry for all issues related to disabilities.
6. The Committee would welcome further information on inter-agency coordination in place or plan to establish one, to ensure effectiveness of assistance provided to mine victims.

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

7. South Sudan reported that a national disability action plan that was developed in 2020, with support of the European Union, was still pending for approved by the Government. South Sudan reported that the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) has been following up to get the plan approved.

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

8. South Sudan reported that an assessment was conducted by Humanity & Inclusion (HI) in 2021, to identify barriers to accessing services for persons with disabilities, specifically in accessing reproductive health services, food and livelihood opportunities, and following the assessment, HI supported national partners to develop action plans to remove the identified barriers, in addition, HI supported in making three health facilities physically accessible for persons with disabilities, by installation of ramps, handrails, wider entrances, paths for wheelchair users in Kator Melekia and Munuki PHCC.
9. South Sudan reported raising awareness in all communities on the need to support mine victims and other persons with disabilities by NMAA, Ministry of Education and the Union of Persons with disabilities (SSUPWD), which has increase enrolment of children with disabilities in schools and increased their access to rehabilitation centres. A total of 53 persons with disabilities were trained, including 22 male and 31 female.

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. South Sudan reported applying a multi-sectoral efforts to ensure assistance is provided to mine victims, with the following ministries taking part in accordance with their areas of work and mandates:

- The Ministry of education collect data on children with disabilities enrolled, and completed from the primary level and higher level;
- Humanitarian and disasters management coordination forum at MOGCSW is the focus point to ensure persons with disabilities and mine victims are considered as key stakeholders in any assessment and they take part to help identify their needs and participate in decision making that concerns them; and
- The Ministry of Housing has considered the needs of persons with disabilities in their frameworks where all public premises would have to be access to persons with disabilities.

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

11. South Sudan reported that no centralised database for persons with disabilities existed and that it was recommended that the MGCSW to establish a centralised database to bring together all information related to disabilities and mine survivors that is collected by government or other agencies such as the UNMAS, the ICRC, Humanity and Inclusion and OVCI Ustratuna Children Rehabilitation Centre.

12. South Sudan reported that NMAA with support of UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) continued to collect data on casualties by mines and other explosive ordinances.

13. The Committee encourages NMAA to disseminate mine victims data with relevant ministries and other stakeholders to assist with effective victim assistance implementation.

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

14. The Committee recalls that in 2021, South Sudan reported limited healthcare services provided by the government and in a lot of cases by nongovernmental organisations, indicating shortages of emergency response and healthcare services in most places, and the lack of such services in other

communities, especially in remote and rural areas where evacuation of casualties is only possible by air.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

15. South Sudan reported that the MOGCSW, NMAA and other stakeholders refer persons with disabilities to available services.
16. South Sudan reported that with support of HI, a service directory for persons with disabilities was under development, targeting Juba, Bentiu and Yei clusters specifically focussing on access to social and reproductive health services.
17. The Committee encourages South Sudan to consider developing a national referral mechanism to ensure smooth access by mine victims and persons with disabilities to services they require.

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

18. South Sudan reported availability of rehabilitation services, essentially with support of the that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and HI, as follows:
 - The ICRC supports three physical rehabilitation centres Juba, Rumbek and Wau which operates under the supervision of the MOGCSW. The Centres offer physiotherapy, assistive devices and mobility aids such as prostheses, orthoses, crutches and customised wheelchairs, as well as psychosocial support. In 2021, assisted 4,571 people (all types of services combined), with free of charge. In addition, outreach clinics are also regularly organized in remote areas of the country, to reach out to those in need in remote areas. 35 mine victims and 14 bomb victims received treatment in 2021, through the three Centres supported by the ICRC;
 - HI provides functional rehabilitation programmes in Juba and Yei, through community based and centre based rehabilitation within health centres. The activities include provision of assistive devices, physiotherapy services, homebased adaptations, referrals and awareness raising. Through the support from South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF), HI has also recently expanded its operations to Aweil South, Pibor, Mangala and Bentiu doing the same activities starting from September 2021;
 - HI also implements community based Mental Health and Psychological Support (MHPSS) programmes in the mentioned counties, including through individual and group counselling, peer to peer support and other activities. Through these and above services, HI has assisted over 4,000 persons with disabilities; and
 - Other organizations such as OVCI also provide rehabilitation support to persons with disabilities including mine victims.

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

19. South Sudan reported that HI provided MHPSS including peer to peer support to persons with disabilities in South Sudan and the Committee recalls that in 2021 South Sudan reported that that psychological counselling is provided by the three rehabilitation centres and some public hospitals in the capital and regions.

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

20. South Sudan reported that HI conducted trainings to partners to enhance disability mainstreaming in their projects, also, HI provided direct opportunities for persons with disabilities for empowerment through capacity building and other socio-economic activities.

21. The Committee would welcome further information on specific efforts made to enhance social and economic inclusion of mine victims, including in rural and remote areas in South Sudan.

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

22. The Committee recalls that in 2021 South Sudan reported the inclusion of mine survivors in the country's national humanitarian response and/or disaster mitigation preparedness and management policy and that in 2020, 13 percent of the beneficiaries of humanitarian response were persons with disabilities.

23. The Committee would welcome further information on the number and types of humanitarian services mine survivors have received in 2020 and 2021.

24. The Committee would also welcome further information on disaster mitigation preparedness and management policy in relation to safety and protection of mine survivors.

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

25. South Sudan reported a Union of persons with disabilities was launched in September 2020 by the Vice President of South Sudan, and it comprised memberships from 10 states of South Sudan and the eight Organizations of Persons with Disabilities. South Sudan also reported that persons with disabilities are included in decision making by their representative in the parliament.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

26. The Committee encourages South Sudan to step up efforts by providing national financial commitments to assist mine victims.

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

27. South Sudan reported that gender is included in the national development plan for South Sudan and it has taken into consideration the diverse needs of men, women, girls and boys. The MOGCSW mandated to mainstream gender in accordance with the National Gender Policy Strategic Plan (NAP), since 2013. South Sudan reported several other efforts concerning gender equality in the country.

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

28. South Sudan reported, also in 2021, facing challenges in implementing victim assistance, such as the followings:

- Shortages in resources for victim assistance activities;

- There is no centralised database on disabilities;
- No need assessment or national survey has been carried out and it is believed that the actual number of mine and other explosive remnants of war's victims are far higher;
- The persons with disabilities who have been trained in business skills or received vocational trainings, have reported that they have not been able to start their income generating business as they don't have access to micro finance because they have no assets to borrow loan; and
- COVID-19 caused delay in approval of the national disability action plan and ratification to the CRPD.

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

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Victim Assistance
South Sudan

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information request by the Committee (deadline 9 August)
#33	# States Parties that have designated a government entity to coordinate victim assistance activities						The Committee would welcome further information on inter-agency coordination in place or plan to establish one, to ensure effectiveness of assistance provided to mine victims.
	# States Parties that have national action plans in place containing specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound objectives and related indicators						
#34	# States Parties that report that they include mine victims in relevant national policy and support frameworks						
#35	# States Parties that include victims of anti-personnel mines in disability data systems						The Committee encourages NMAA to disseminate mine victims data with relevant ministries and other stakeholders to assist with effective victim assistance implementation.
	# States Parties that disaggregate victim data by gender, age and disability						The Committee would welcome further disaggregated information on casualties' gender, age, and disability. The Committee would also welcome information on indirect victims, such as affected families.
#36	# States Parties reporting on efforts to ensure an efficient and effective emergency response to mine accidents						
#37	# States Parties that report having a national referral mechanism						The Committee encourages South Sudan to consider developing a national referral mechanism to ensure smooth access by mine victims and persons with disabilities to services they require.
	# States Parties that report having a directory of services in place						
#38	# States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability and accessibility of comprehensive rehabilitation services						
	# States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability of psychological and psychosocial support services						
	# States Parties that have established peer-to-peer services within their national healthcare system						
#39	# States Parties reporting on efforts to remove barriers to the social and economic inclusion of mine victims						The Committee would welcome further information on specific efforts made to enhance social and economic inclusion of mine victims, including in rural and remote areas in South Sudan.
#40	# States Parties that report integrating protection of mine survivors in their humanitarian response and preparedness plans						<p>The Committee would welcome further information on the number and types of humanitarian services mine survivors have received in 2020 and 2021.</p> <p>The Committee would also welcome further information on disaster mitigation preparedness and management policy in relation to safety and protection of mine survivors.</p>

#41	# States Parties that report that they include victim representatives or their organizations in victim assistance planning at the national and local level					
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS						
#1	# States Parties that report, having included Convention implementation activities in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, where appropriate					The Committee encourages South Sudan to step up efforts by providing national financial commitments to assist mine victims.
	% mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention					
#3	# mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place					
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings					
#8	# States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting					
	# States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings					The Committee would welcome information on how the international community could be of further support to South Sudan's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.