



STATEMENT ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE AT THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS 19 21 JUNE, 2023

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Excellences, ladies and gentlemen, Uganda ratified the Convention on the Anti-Personnel (AP) Mine Ban Treaty) on the 25th of February, 1999 and it came into force in August 1999 and was declared mine-free in 2012. Since then, Uganda is implementing the victim assistance program in the broader context of disability.

Uganda uses a twin-track approach of inclusion approach all Persons with Disabilities to benefit from the Government programs that target on an equal basis, including the landmine victims. Nevertheless, attention is always given to the peculiar needs of landmine victims, especially in terms of rehabilitation, surgery and provision of assistive devices.

The Persons with Disabilities Act (2022) is the guiding law for all interventions for all Persons with Disabilities in Uganda, including the landmine survivors

Excellences, ladies and gentlemen, the National Inclusive Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities which was supported by ISU, attention was given to victim assistance.

The revised National Policy for Persons with Disabilities (2023) emphasizes the provision of rehabilitation services as well as provision of the assistive technology that is appropriate. The Policy is cognizant of all the issues to do with education, health, and employment for all Persons with Disabilities. In addition, a specific policy on inclusive education is being finalized by the Ministry of Education.

Over the past four Financial Years, the Government of Uganda has been implementing the national special grant for persons. The fund which is 16 billion Uganda shillings every year is to provide more opportunities to Persons with Disabilities to start income-generating activities in their groups and improve their livelihoods. These groups of beneficiaries especially from the northern region of the country include the landmine survivors and victims.

The National Technical Coordination Committee on Disability has membership from the Ministries of Health, Education, Public Service, the National Union of Persons with Disabilities and the National

Council for Persons with Disabilities, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, among others. This enables mainstreaming disability issues in different plans and programs of the different Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.

In the global commitments to disability 2022, the Government of Uganda pledged and has started on the journey to:

- i. Equip 40% of the orthopedic workshops across the country to facilitate quality production and revise the essential medicines/drugs/supplies list for lower health facilities to increase rare drugs, medicines, and assistive devices/technology for all categories of Persons with Disabilities, especially mental health, Epilepsy, albinism, persons with physical disabilities who include the landmine victims, by 2024.
- ii. Review the disability data collection and analysis tools, using the revised WHO tools and at the minimum disaggregated data in the Health Management Information systems on causes of all categories of early disability, by 2023.
- iii. Develop a compendium of all health disability studies and disseminate them quarterly through the disability councils at the district level and other disability structures, by the end of 2023. In this regard, the government has started working on a disability “blueprint”, whose main objective is to come up with a comprehensive costed framework on causes and mitigation measures for each category of disability; to guide country intervention.

Challenges faced

- The State has not yet been able to have the actual number of the landmine victims and this affects planning and proper budgeting.

- The State has not been able to allocate a fund or a project to target landmine victims alone because of insufficient funds amidst many priorities.
- There is a challenge of inadequate materials to equip the orthopedic workshops across all the hospitals and therefore cannot produce enough assistive devices.
- There is a problem of stigma and discrimination to persons with disabilities arising of fear and ignorance on the causes and management of disabilities.

Way forward

The government of Uganda pledges to ensure that attention is given to the peculiar needs of landmine Survivors in addressing challenges facing Persons with Disabilities.

Awareness raising on the needs of unit disability challenges since disability is not homogeneous

Continuing partnership with development partners, NGOs, Civil Society and Organizations of persons with disabilities, so that the needs of landmine survivors are tackled using a Multi- sectoral approach

Mr. President Uganda continues to implement an inclusive approach of ensuring that all Persons with Disabilities and their caregivers, including the landmine victims are given the same range services just like other Ugandans, keeping in mind their peculiar needs and their rights.

