



ZIMBABWE PROGRESS UPDATE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE





Zimbabwe and Victim Assistance

- Following the operationalization of the National Disability Policy in 2021, Zimbabwe has taken strides in the implementation of Victim Assistance.
- To note is the establishment of a National Taskforce on the implementation of Victim Assistance.
- The taskforce comprises of Government Ministries and organisations of and for landmine victims.



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- The taskforce main objectives include coming up with victim assistance implementation strategy
- Ensuring comprehensive implementation through coordination of all activities and establishment of a clear referral pathway
- Ensuring provision of psycho-social support, assistive devices and other basic social services.



NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Director Disability Affairs during needs assessment in Mudzi District



- The Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare conducted a needs assessment exercise in Mudzi District.
- 8 members, 6 males and 2 females were interviewed and provided with psycho social support.
- The victims were registered for empowerment projects



Documentary



- The Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare in partnership with the Ministry of Information filmed a documentary.
- The documentary captures the lived experiences of land mine victims in Mudzi District
- The victims in Mudzi District were also received some food assistance from the Ministry.



Mine Victims Assistance of Zimbabwe (PVO)

- Mine Victims Assistance of Zimbabwe is an organisation of landmine victims that was registered and accredited in March 2023
- It is operating in Zimbabwe and focuses on provision of assistance to landmine victims
- It has started operations in 3 Districts, Buhera, Mt Darwin and Nyamapanda.



Challenges

- The absence of a biometric database disaggregated by age, gender and location has compromised quality of service provision specific to landmine victims.
- Location of medical facilities remains a hindrance in responding to emergencies and access to medical services particularly for landmine victims.
- Most landmine infested areas are located in hard to reach remote areas of the country. There is need to increase mobile health clinics in these areas



Conclusion

- Through the implementation of the Policy, Zimbabwe remains committed to providing appropriate, affordable and accessible services to mine victims and survivors on an equal basis with others.
- It is also anticipated that the needs assessment exercise will be expanded to cover all the affected areas in Zimbabwe.
- The exercise will assist in coming up with national statistics on land mine victims and survivors across the whole nation and their specific needs
- Once this is in place, needs based interventions can then be designed and implemented effectively.



The End

