

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

ANGOLA

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – VICTIM ASSISTANCE

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Italy, Slovenia, Uganda (Chair) and Zambia)

Intersessional Meetings

19-21 June 2023

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

Mine casualties

3. Angola reported 35 new casualties in 2022 including 5 demining incidents, showing an increase to 13 casualties reported for 2020. Angola indicates that increase in casualty is due to shortcomings in the provision of explosive ordnance risk education.
4. The Committee appreciates Angola's effort in disaggregating casualty data provided for 2022, and encourages Angola to disaggregate all data related to mine victims by gender, age and disability.

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. The Committee recalls that Angola had reported that victim assistance was primarily implemented by the National Intersectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (CNIDAH) which has been recently abolished and replaced by the National Demining Centre (CND), the only national government operator that operates under the Angola's National Mine Action Agency (ANAM).
6. Also, the Committee recalls Angola had reported that the Ministry for Social, Family of Women's Affairs (MASFAMU) is responsible to meet the needs and rights of persons with disabilities including mine survivors, while the Ministry of Former Combatants and Veterans of War (MACVP) provided assistance to military and police veterans.
7. The Committee would welcome an update on the function of the ANAM and relevant ministries in overseeing the integration of victim assistance into broader national frameworks. The Committee would further welcome information on progress made in strengthening coordination and collaboration in this regard.

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

8. Angola reported that in 2022, ANAM collaborated with its partners and stakeholders to develop a national mine action standard (NMAS) in accordance with the International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) on Victim Assistance (IMAS 13.10) and that the NMAS will be approved soon.

9. The Committee would welcome information on the development / implementation of a national action plan that facilitates the implementation of victim assistance in Angola.

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

10. The Committee would welcome information on efforts made in 2022 to address any barriers that hamper participation and inclusion of mine victims on equal basis with other members of their society.

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)

11. Angola reported that ANAM worked in collaboration with relevant government agencies and other stakeholders to develop a NMAS on victim assistance.

12. The Committee would welcome updates on efforts made to address the challenges in applying a multi-sectoral approach and information on alignment of victim assistance activities with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

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

13. The Committee would welcome information on availability of, or progress made in establishing of a centralised database including information on persons killed or injured by mines and their needs and challenges, disaggregated by gender, age and disability.

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

14. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Angola reported the need to upgrade healthcare equipment and for refresher first aid training to villagers in affected communities. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard and other progress made to increase first aid and ongoing emergency medical care in affected areas.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

15. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Angola reported that a referral system has been in place within primary healthcare and that a national directory of services will be developed, subject to availability of resources. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.

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

16. Angola reported that progress has been made in the healthcare sector with the construction of new health facilities and the rehabilitation of existing centres, to assist people with disabilities [including mine victims]. Angola reported that orthopaedic centres are in full operation and although they have benefited from refurbishment services, some need more attention in terms of maintenance, while others are equipped with “state-of-the-art materials”.

17. Angola reported that efforts were made to improve rehabilitation including by strengthening rehabilitation technicians capacities.

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

18. The Committee would welcome information on progress made in providing psychological and psychosocial including peer to peer support to mine victims in 2022.

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

19. Angola reported that the strengthening of social protection (known as “KWENDA” in Portuguese) and informal economy conversion (known as “PREI” in Portuguese) programmes implemented by the government have contributed to the well-being of the population. Angola reported that new schools and hospitals have been built. Angola further indicated that roads have been built or rehabilitated outside these locations to facilitate access for people living in remote areas and to enable more women and children to be enrolled in the education system.

20. Angola reported that in the field of social inclusion, people with disabilities participate in sports such as: football with crutches, wheelchair basketball, athletics, etc. Angola further reported that, in 2022, the Angolan football team on crutches participated in the World Cup held in Istanbul-Turkey where they finished in second place.

Angola reported that efforts were made to ensure people with disabilities are integrated into the employment system through recruitment and selection processes based on Presidential Decree No. 12/16. Angola reported that this decree ensures that 4% of employees of government institutions and 2% of employees of private institutions are persons with disabilities.

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

21. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Angola reported that safety and protection of people in situations of disaster is part of the Civil Protection Commission’s mandate.

22. The Committee would welcome information on measures in place through the Civil Protection Commission or other entities to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies.

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

23. The Committee recalls that Angola had reported that mine survivors and their representative organisations had been included in relevant programmes and policies, except in rural and remote areas and that more would need to be done to implement national laws with regards to participation and inclusion of mine survivors.

24. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

25. Angola reported efforts in implementing this aspect of the OAP including the development of a national standard to strengthen national efforts in victim assistance. Angola also reported allocating national funds to ANAM and CND, the agencies that lead coordination of victim assistance efforts.

26. The Committee would welcome information on financial or other commitments Angola made to address the needs of mine victims.

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

27. Angola included disaggregated data on mine casualties in 2022, in its Article 7 Report.

28. The Committee would welcome additional information on progress made and/or measures put in place to ensure gender equality and diversity in victim assistance activities.

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

29. Angola reported facing constraints in financial resources that continued to affect victim assistance implementation. The Committee would welcome information on how the international community could be of further support to Angola's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker

Victim Assistance

Angola

Actions	Indicators	202	202	202	202	202	Additional information request by the Committee
#33	# States Parties that have designated a government entity to coordinate victim assistance activities						The Committee would welcome an update on functions of the ANAM and relevant ministries in overseeing the integration of victim assistance into broader national frameworks, and progress made in strengthening coordination and collaboration in this regard.
	# States Parties that have national action plans in place containing specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound objectives and related indicators						The Committee would welcome information on development / implementation national action plans that facilitate the implementation of victim assistance in Angola. The Committee would welcome information on efforts made in 2022 to address any barriers that hamper participation and inclusion of mine victims on equal basis with other members of their society.
#34	# States Parties that report that they include mine victims in relevant national policy and support frameworks						The Committee would welcome updates on efforts made to address the challenge to apply multi-sectoral efforts and information on alignment of victim assistance activities with provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
#35	# States Parties that include victims of anti-personnel mines in disability data systems						The Committee would welcome information on availability of, or progress made in establishing of a centralised database including information on persons killed or injured by mines and their needs and challenges, disaggregated by gender, age and disability.
	# States Parties that disaggregate victim data by gender, age and disability						
#36	# States Parties reporting on efforts to ensure an efficient and effective emergency response to mine accidents						The Committee recalls that in 2020 Angola reported the need to upgrade healthcare equipment and for refresher first aid training to villagers in affected communities as an effort to strengthen first aid services. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard and other progress made to increase first aid and ongoing emergency medical care in affected areas.
#37	# States Parties that report having a national referral mechanism						
	# States Parties that report having a directory of services in place						The Committee recalls that in 2020 Angola reported a national directory of services will be developed, subject to availability of resources. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
#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						The Committee would welcome information on progress made in providing psychological and psychosocial including peer to peer support to mine victims in 2022.
	# 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						
#40	# States Parties that report integrating protection of mine survivors in their humanitarian response and preparedness plans						The Committee would welcome information on measures in place through the Civil Protection Commission or other entities to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies.
#41	# States Parties that report that they include victim representatives or their organizations in victim assistance planning at the national and local level						The Committee recalls that in 2020 Angola reported that mine survivors and their representative organisations had been included in relevant programmes and policies, except in rural and remote areas and that more would need to be done to implement national laws with regards to participation and inclusion of mine survivors. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
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						
	% mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention						The Committee would welcome information on financial or other commitments Angola made to address the needs of mine victims.
#3	# mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						The Committee would welcome additional information on progress made and/or measures put in place to ensure gender equality and diversity in victim assistance activities.
	# 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						Angola reported constraints in financial resources continued to affect victim assistance implementation. The Committee would welcome information on how the international community could be of further support to Angola's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.