

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

### COLOMBIA

#### 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 Colombia of updated information on its victim assistance activities.
2. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

##### **Mine casualties**

3. Colombia reported 135 casualties in 2022, a decrease to 152 casualties reported in 2021. Colombia reported that the total number of all registered victims of anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnances (UXO) increased to 12,301, and the following municipalities recorded the highest number of victims: Vista Hermosa - Meta (370), Tame - Arauca (349), San Andrés de Tumaco - Nariño (401), Tarazá - Antioquia (271) and San Vicente del Cagüán - Caquetá (265).
4. Colombia provided information on mine victims disaggregated by gender, age, disability, status, ethnicity, and reported that 10.41% of the victims are children, 26.02% are civilians and 14.45% are women.
5. The Committee would welcome further 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 (Action #33 and also Actions #1 and #6)**

6. Colombia reported that the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace and through its national mine action centre (known in Spanish as AICMA) is responsible for coordination of activities related to mine and UXO victims.
7. Colombia reported that the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MOHSP) leads efforts on the implementation of the “La Ruta de Atención Integral en Salud a Víctimas de MAP -MUSE” a national action plan/referral mechanism on victim assistance (referred as “La Ruta” in this document).

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

8. Colombia reported that the AICMA’s annual operational plan for 2022 considered the indicators and commitments of the Oslo Action Plan.

9. Colombia reported on implementation of “La Ruta” that has been in place since 2007 and the Comprehensive Health Care and Functional Rehabilitation Roadmap for mine and UXO victims that has been in place since 2016, these plans that are developed in accordance with the Law 1448, aim to ensure provision of comprehensive assistance to victims. La Ruta include five levels of interventions, as follows:

- pre-hospital care;
- emergency care;
- hospital care;
- functional rehabilitation; and
- comprehensive rehabilitation.

10. Colombia reported integration of victim assistance into various national plans and frameworks including a Health Plan 2012 / 2031 and Public Policy for Comprehensive Health Care – PAIS.

11. Colombia also reported that in 2022, the MOHSP adopted provisions concerning certification of disability and the “Registry for the Location and Characterization of Persons with Disabilities” based on the International Classification of Disability and Health Functioning – ICF.

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

12. The Committee would welcome information on progress made in lifting barriers that hinder participation and inclusion of mine victims, such as by improving physical accessibility of public buildings/places.

**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)**

13. Colombia reported that AICMA has been undertaking a multisectoral approach to reach victims in remote areas of the country, and to identify new victims and to understand their situations in order to better facilitate provisions of assistance. Colombia reported making progress in accordance with Law 1448 and the decree 1784 of 2019 to integrate victim assistance into broader frameworks, by working together or coordinating with various ministries, national agencies and stakeholders.

14. Colombia reported that victim assistance activities were carried out in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) which has been domesticated by Law 1346 of 2009 and Law 1618 of 2013.

15. Colombia reported undertaking comprehensive efforts at policy and implementation levels indicating progress in a holistic manner, to assist victims.

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

16. Colombia reported that various measures are in place to collect, analyse, share and follow up on victims data. Colombia reported that information on civilian mine victims was registered in the Anti-personnel Mine Survivors Information Service (SISMAP), and it seeks to streamline and provide transparency to the process of registration, characterization and monitoring of victim assistance.

17. Colombia also reported on the availability of a Comprehensive Social Protection Information System – SISPRO, a database used by the Health and Social Protection Sector at the MOHSP.

18. Colombia also reported that data on mine victims are published online frequently.

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

19. Colombia reported that first aid is available in mine affected communities and that the MOHSP provides comprehensive healthcare to the victims in accordance with their Health Plan 2012/2031 and Public Policy for Comprehensive Health Care – PAIS. Colombia had reported that measures were put into place to ensure the safety of minor victims, such as supporting their guardian/accompany throughout the healthcare, rehabilitation and recovery processes.

20. Colombia also reported that AICMA has been working to ensure provision of pre-hospital care and ongoing healthcare to victims through a multisectoral approach as per La Ruta.

#### **Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)**

21. Colombia reported on efforts made in 2022 to examine and address barriers hindering the implementation of La Ruta and that, as a result of the findings, measures were put into place to advance the implementation and improve referral processes in delivery of healthcare services to mine victims.

22. Colombia had reported that a referral mechanism was developed within the General System of Social Security in Health (SGSSS) and referrals were also made by the regulatory centre for emergencies of each department.

23. Colombia reported that the MOHSP refers victims to healthcare services available and that MOHSP also monitors the provision of such services according to the requirements set by the Ministry in.

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

24. Colombia reported that comprehensive functional rehabilitation is available and provided to victims in accordance with Resolution 2481 of 2020 and the Statutory Law 1751 of 2015 which regulates the fundamental right to healthcare. Colombia reported that rehabilitation is implemented through La Ruta and under the lead of the MOHSP.

25. Colombia reported that rehabilitation in general and assistive products in particular are tailored to the needs of each individual as per a number of regulations and policies put in place in this regard.

26. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Colombia reported that the MOHSP was working on a mechanism to improve tariff conditions in favour of imported assistive devices and would welcome information on progress made in this regard.

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

27. Colombia reported that psychosocial support is made available as an integral part of comprehensive healthcare to mine victims and affected families.

28. Colombia reported that psychosocial support to mine survivors and affected families is provided through the Program of Psychosocial Care and Comprehensive Health for Victims (known in Spanish as PAPSIVI) in each territory and that a resolution (2272) was issued in 2021 to enhance psychological support and other efforts. Colombia elaborated that the PAPSIVI contains, as a set of interdisciplinary activities, procedures and interventions to provide comprehensive health care and psychosocial care, designed and implemented by the MOHSP.

29. Colombia reported that in 2022, intersectoral efforts were made to improve coordination, referral, analysis of information and other relevant measures concerning the design and delivery of psychological support to victims.

30. The Committee would welcome further information on availability of peer-to-peer support and its integration into health systems.

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

31. Colombia reported that three survivors' associations from different regions were provided with \$300,000,000 in 2022 to carry out risk education, this effort in addition to making significant progress in risk education, led to capacity building of survivors' associations and shifted them from passive receivers of assistance to active players.

32. Colombia reported that in 2022 the government assisted the national network of survivors' associations, whose membership reached 580 direct and indirect victims.

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

33. The Committee recalls that Colombia had reported that the Ministry of National Education promoted the strategy of risk management and education in situations of emergencies with the aim to strengthen capacities of certified territorial entities to prevent threats, risks with regards to safety and protection of students.

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

34. Colombia reported that the government continued providing opportunities to survivors and their representative organisations to actively participate in mine action activities, including by providing funding for projects to conduct risk education.

35. Colombia reported that in 2022 the government provided capacity building and other tangible support to the newly established national network of survivors' associations and to empower the network and its member associations.

**CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS:**

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

36. Colombia reported on efforts concerning policy development and on the allocation of financial resources to local representative associations of survivors to deliver risk educations in affected communities.

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

37. Colombia reported that, in accordance with the Law 1448, gender and diversity have been considered in relevant activities, to ensure age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and disabilities of the victims are considered in relevant policies and programmes.

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

38. The Committee would welcome information on challenges faced to meet the rights and needs of mine victims, and how the international community, including the Committee on Victim Assistance can assist Colombia to fulfil its victim assistance obligations under the Convention and the OAP.

**The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker**  
**Victim Assistance**  
**Colombia**

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 information on progress made lifting barriers that hinder participation and inclusion of mine victims, such as by improving physical accessibility of public buildings/places.
	# 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 would welcome further information on indirect victims, such as affected families.
	# 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						
#37	# States Parties that report having a national referral mechanism						
	# 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						The Committee recalls that in 2020 Colombia reported that the MOHSP was working on a mechanism to improve tariff conditions in favour of assistive devices that Colombia imports and would welcome information on progress made in this regard
	# 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						The Committee would welcome further information on availability of peer-to-peer support and its integration into health systems.
#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 to ensure the integration of the needs and rights of mine survivors into national humanitarian response and/or other relevant mainstream frameworks to ensure their protection and safety in situations of risks and humanitarian emergencies.
#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	█	█	█	█		
	% 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, including the Committee on Victim Assistance can assist Colombia to fulfil its victim assistance obligations under the Convention and the OAP.