

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

### GUINEA-BISSAU

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

##### **Mine casualties**

3. Guinea-Bissau reported no new casualties in 2022 and has to date registered more than 1,500 mine and explosive remnant of war (ERW) casualties, including 10 casualties in 2021. The Committee recalls that in 2022 Guinea-Bissau provided disaggregated information on its recent casualties.
4. The Committee would welcome disaggregated information on all registered mine victims.

##### **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 (Actions #1, #6 and #33)**

5. Guinea-Bissau reported that the National Mine Action Coordination Centre (CAAMI for its initials in Portuguese)) is responsible for victim assistance and works together with relevant ministries such as the Ministry of Women, Family and Social Cohesion (MMFSS), the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and the Federation of Associations for the Defense and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of Guinea-Bissau (FADPD-GB) to integrate victim assistance into broader mainstream policies and programmes.

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

6. Guinea-Bissau reported the development of a five-year National Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (ENPICD).
7. The Committee would welcome further information on the adoption of the ENPICD and progress in its implementation.

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

8. The Committee would welcome information on efforts made, including through the humanitarian emergency response, to enhance participation and inclusion of mine victims in relevant programmes and policies.

**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)**

9. Guinea-Bissau reported that CAAMI works together with relevant ministries and other stakeholders to ensure the integration of victim assistance in broader policies and programmes and that the ENPICD was developed for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

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

10. The Committee encourages Guinea-Bissau to ensure the establishment / strengthening of a centralised database which includes casualty data, such as a national disability database or national injury surveillance system with capacity to maintain, analyse and make the data available to relevant stakeholders.

11. The Committee welcomes Guinea-Bissau providing information disaggregated by gender, age and disability on all mine victims registered in Guinea-Bissau.

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

12. Guinea-Bissau reported a lack of emergency medical care in remote areas. Guinea-Bissau also reported that healthcare services available through public hospitals in the capital and regions provide services to everyone in need, including mine victims and persons with disabilities.

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

13. The Committee would welcome information on the existence of, or progress in developing, a national referral mechanism and national directory of services to facilitate access to services by mine victims, including in rural and remote areas.

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

14. Guinea-Bissau reported the availability of rehabilitation services provided by the Physical Rehabilitation Centre in the capital. The Centre provides prostheses, orthoses, mobility devices, physiotherapy and acupuncture. Guinea-Bissau reported that the Centre also provided support to mine survivors from Senegal.

15. Guinea-Bissau reported that the MOPH worked together with the WHO and AIFO (an Italian NGO) to conduct a national rehabilitation assessment in 2021-2022. Guinea-Bissau reported that the assessment's key recommendations for Guinea-Bissau included the integration of rehabilitation into its national health policies and programmes.

16. The Committee welcomes Guinea-Bissau sharing the results of the assessment.

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

17. The Committee would welcome additional information on the availability of psychological and psychosocial support including peer to peer support to mine victims, and any relevant information on progress made in this regard in 2022.

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

18. The Committee recalls that in 2022 Guinea-Bissau reported that the Ministry of Education (MOE), with support of NGOs, provides inclusive education to persons with disabilities including mine survivors. Guinea-Bissau reported that it carries out efforts to increase national capacity among schools on inclusive education and to distribute materials to raise public awareness. Guinea-Bissau reported that the MOE has issued an instruction to schools to ensure persons with disabilities will be provided with free access to schools.

19. The Committee would welcome an update on progress made towards meeting the socio-economic needs of mine victims in 2022.

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

20. The Committee would welcome information on national measures in place for the protection and safety of mine victims in situations of risks and emergencies.

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

21. Guinea-Bissau reported that mine survivors and persons with disabilities were included in the national dialogue in January 2022 and that CAAMI regularly consulted the Federation of Associations for the Defense and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of Guinea-Bissau (FADPD-GB) on matters related to victim assistance.

**CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS:**

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

22. The Committee would welcome information on efforts made to ensure strong national ownership including by allocating financial resources to victim assistance.

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

23. The Committee would welcome information on efforts made to ensure gender and diversity are taken into account in victim assistance implementation efforts in Guinea-Bissau.

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

24. Guinea-Bissau reported that the challenges reported in the previous year persist, including:

- Limited capacity at CAAMI due to lack of financial means. We will need to boost our technical capacity to assist relevant ministries with integration of victim assistance, reporting and coordination;

- Mine action including Victim assistance has not been a priority for the government of Guinea-Bissau after it has declared completion in 2012;
- With the departure of direct assistance of the ICRC to PRC, rehabilitation services in Guinea-Bissau face a challenge. Guinea-Bissau would greatly benefit from long-term cooperation and assistance in this regard. In addition to this, the availability of services such as inclusive education, social and economic inclusion, and healthcare is scarce but information to measure the quality and extent of these services is lacking; and
- Updating and verifying the data on mine victims. Until 2012 data was collected on mine victims but since then, data has been collected partially based on media reports and other accessible information. There is a need to conduct a survey in this regard.

25. The Committee would welcome information on how the international community including the Committee on Victim Assistance can assist Guinea-Bissau to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

**The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker**  
**Victim Assistance**  
**Guinea-Bissau**

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information request by the Committee
#33	# States Parties that have designated a government entity to coordinate victim assistance activities						
	# 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 further information on adoption of the ENPICD and progress in its implementation.
#34	# States Parties that report that they include mine victims in relevant national policy and support frameworks						The Committee welcomes Guinea-Bissau to information on efforts made to remove barriers hindering participation of mine victims.
#35	# States Parties that include victims of anti-personnel mines in disability data systems						The Committee encourages Guinea-Bissau to ensure the establishment / strengthening of a centralised database and the integration of casualty data into centralised database, such as disability database or national injury surveillance systems with capacity to maintain, analyse and make the data available to relevant stakeholders.
	# States Parties that disaggregate victim data by gender, age and disability						The Committee welcomes information disaggregated by gender, age and disability on all mine victims registered in Guinea-Bissau
#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 would welcome information on availability of a national referral mechanism.
	# States Parties that report having a directory of services in place						The Committee would welcome information on the development national directory of services.
#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 updates on progress made in this regard in 2022.
	# States Parties that have established peer-to-peer services within their national healthcare system						The Committee would welcome information on peer counselling and its integration into health systems.
#39	# States Parties reporting on efforts to remove barriers to the social and economic inclusion of mine victims						The Committee would welcome an update progress made towards meeting the socio-economic needs of mine victims in 2022.

#40	# States Parties that report integrating protection of mine survivors in their humanitarian response and preparedness plans						The Committee would welcome information on national measures in place for protection and safety of mine victims 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						
<b>CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS</b>							
#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 commitments made by Guinea-Bissau for victim assistance implementation
#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 information on efforts made to ensure gender and diversity are taken into account in victim assistance efforts in Guinea-Bissau.
	# 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 Guinea-Bissau to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.