

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

NICARAGUA

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

Mine casualties

3. Nicaragua reported a total of 1,276 mine victims, with last casualty recorded in 2010.
4. The Committee would welcome further disaggregated information on age, gender, and disability of the 1,276 mine victims, and information on indirect victims, such as families affected by mines.
5. Nicaragua reported that as of 2018 there are 138,698 people with disabilities registered, of which 51% are men and 49% are women. Nicaragua also reported that the majority are physical-motor (39%), followed by people with intellectual disabilities (25%), visual disabilities (12%), hearing (9%), psychosocial (5%), people with two or more disabilities (8%) and visceral disability (2%). Nicaragua further reported that 45% are over 60 years old, 25% are between 40 and 59 years old, 10% are between 30 and 39 years old, 9% are between 20 and 29 years old, 4% have between 14 and 19 years old, 6% between 5 and 14 years old, 1% between 1 to 4 years.

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)

6. Nicaragua reported that the National Council for the Promotion and Enforcement of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the National Council) has been the entity responsible for the implementation of the Law 763 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
7. The Committee would welcome further information the roles of the National Council concerning the integration of mine victims into broader national policies and programmes.

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

8. The Committee would welcome information on the existence of national action plan or other similar frameworks that takes the needs and rights of mine victims into consideration.

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

9. The Committee would welcome information on progress made to lift barriers hindering the participation and inclusion of mine victims.

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)

10. Nicaragua reporting applying multi-sectoral efforts including through the National Council which is composed of 17 public institutions, federations of associations of persons with disabilities and representatives of parents of children with disabilities and presided by the Ministry of Health, in accordance with Law 763.

11. The Committee would welcome information on alignment of national victim assistance efforts 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)

12. Nicaragua reported that the Ministry of Health in September 2016, relaunched the "Todos Con Voz" Program at the national level, to continue implementing Law No. 763 "Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" with the objective of reviewing the census of persons with disabilities, to certify and license them and in this way attend to their health, their basic needs and improve their quality of life.

13. The Committee would welcome information on availability of, or plan to establish a centralised database or national information management system with capacity to include, maintain and make the data available to relevant national stakeholders.

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

1. The Committee would welcome information on availability of first aid other pre-hospital care and long-term medical care available to mine victims.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

14. The Committee welcomes Nicaragua to provide information on availability of, or plan to create a national referral mechanism and a comprehensive directory of services to facilitate mine victims' access to services for mine victims.

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

15. Nicaragua reported that the Ministry of Health has established and strengthened a network of Rehabilitation Services including:
- Rehabilitation services located in the Departmental capitals;
 - Physiotherapy Units, located in the Municipal Health Centres;
 - The Aldo Chavarría National Rehabilitation School Hospital;
 - The Antonio Lenin Fonseca School Hospital, a national reference;

- The José Dolores Fletes Psychosocial Hospital, of national reference, and specialized psychiatric care is provided in the departmental hospitals;
- Three Workshops for the Production of Prostheses, Orthoses and other Technical Aids, located in Managua, Estelí and Puerto Cabezas, which have produced 4,500 Prostheses and 6,700 Orthoses, benefiting an equal number of beneficiaries;
- The health system has eight audiological units, located in the Departments of; Managua, Leon, Matagalpa, Estelí, Chontales, Jinotega, Bluefields and Masaya, in these units 9,000 Audiometry and Tympanometry have been performed and 5,000 Hearing Prostheses have been delivered to the same number of protagonists; and
- Houses equipped for people with Special Needs at the Municipal level.

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

16. Nicaragua reported that in 2020, Nicaragua relaunched the Psychosocial Care Centres for people with a psychosocial disability (CAPS) including 14 psychosocial care centres nationwide and 94 houses for people with special needs, equipped with the necessary tools to continue the rehabilitations that each person needs.

17. The Committee would welcome further information on progress made in this regard as well as information on availability of peer-to-peer support.

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

18. Nicaragua reported that, in compliance with the National Human Development Plan and its guidelines to eradicate poverty and inequality, it has promoted policies in order to eliminate all kinds of physical, social, cultural, economic, political and other barriers in order to guarantee the reintegration of mine survivors into society.

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

19. 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.

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

20. Nicaragua reported that persons with disabilities and their representative federation are included in the National Council, and that other measures have been developed in the framework of the Law 763 ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities, including victims.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

21. Nicaragua reported that, in compliance with the National Human Development Plan and its guidelines to eradicate poverty and inequality, it has been promoting actions to increase the availability and access to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic opportunities and social protection for people with disabilities, especially war victims. Likewise, it

has promoted policies in order to eliminate all kinds of physical, social, cultural, economic, political and other barriers in order to guarantee their reintegration into society.

22. The Committee would welcome further information on allocation of financial resources and other commitments made by the Government of Nicaragua in meeting the needs and rights of mine victims.

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

23. The Committee would welcome further information on measures in place to ensure consideration for the different needs and perspective of women, girls, boys and men in implementation efforts.

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

24. The Committee would welcome information on challenges encountered in victim assistance in Nicaragua and information on how the international community including the Committee on Victim Assistance can assist Nicaragua to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Victim Assistance
Nicaragua

Actions	Indicators						Additional information request by the Committee
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
#33	# States Parties that have designated a government entity to coordinate victim assistance activities						The Committee would welcome further information on the roles of the National Council concerning the integration of mine victims into broader national policies and programmes.
	# 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 the existence and implementation of national action plan or other similar frameworks that has taken into consideration the needs and rights of mine victims.
#34	# States Parties that report that they include mine victims in relevant national policy and support frameworks						The Committee would welcome information on alignment of national victim assistance efforts with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
#35	# States Parties that include victims of anti-personnel mines in disability data systems						The Committee would welcome further disaggregated information on age, gender, and disability of the 1,276 mine victims, and information on indirect victims, such as families affected by mines.
	# States Parties that disaggregate victim data by gender, age and disability						The Committee would welcome information on availability of, or plan to establish a centralised database or national information management system with capacity to include, maintain and make the data available to relevant national stakeholders.
#36	# States Parties reporting on efforts to ensure an efficient and effective emergency response to mine accidents						The Committee would welcome information on availability of medical care services and information on mine victims who have accessed these services.
#37	# States Parties that report having a national referral mechanism						The Committee welcomes information on availability of, or plan to create a national referral mechanism and a comprehensive directory of services to facilitate mine victims' access to services for mine victims.
	# 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 would welcome further information on progress made in this regard as well as information on availability of peer-to-peer support.
	# 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						
#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					The Committee would welcome information on allocation of financial resources and other commitments made by the Government of Nicaragua in meeting the needs and rights 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 further information on measures in place to ensure consideration for the different needs and perspective of women, girls, boys and men in implementation efforts.
	# 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 challenges encountered in victim assistance in Nicaragua and information on how the international community including the Committee on Victim Assistance can assist Nicaragua to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.