

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

ZIMBABWE

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

Mine casualties

2. Zimbabwe reported 6 casualties in 2022, all of whom were deminers, bringing the total number of registered mine victims to 283. Zimbabwe reported that the data on mine victims is not complete and that a survey is to be conducted to identify all mine and explosive remnant of war (ERW) victims.
3. Zimbabwe reported that the 2022 Population and Housing Census indicated that 9.7% of the population are persons with disabilities. The census, however, did not include questions on causes of impairments, thus did not provide statistics on mine victims.
4. Zimbabwe further reported that the National Disability Policy requires the disaggregation of statistics by disability, age and gender across social protection programmes.

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. Zimbabwe reported that the Department of Disability Affairs (DODA) at the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MOPLSW) is responsible for victim assistance. Zimbabwe also reported that the Government has launched a Technical Committee on the Implementation of the National Disability Policy where focal persons on disabilities have been appointed and that efforts have been underway to establish an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Landmine Victim Assistance.
6. Zimbabwe reported that mine victims are included in all social protection services and disability related efforts, and as a cross cutting issue, disability is included in implementation of all development initiatives.

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

7. Zimbabwe reported implementing the National Policy on Disability which was adopted in 2021.

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

8. The Committee recalls that Zimbabwe had reported that the Ministry responsible for public transport was to make transportation and roads accessible to all persons with disabilities and that the Government was to develop a policy concerning universal design.
9. The Committee would welcome further information on efforts made with regards to the accessibility of transportation and roads and efforts to develop a policy on universal design.

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. Zimbabwe reported that victim assistance has been integrated into overall provisions of the National Disability Policy and that the Policy is aligned with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
11. Zimbabwe also reported that work was underway to align legislation to its New Constitution as well as International and Regional statutes and conventions.

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

12. Zimbabwe reported that data on mine victims collected by the Zimbabwean Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC) has been shared with the DODA and other relevant agencies.
13. Zimbabwe reported that a process was underway to establish a centralised database.
14. Also, Zimbabwe reported that DODA has a database of persons with disabilities receiving social protection services within their Ministries but that a comprehensive survey is necessary to better understand the situation.

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

15. The Committee recalls that Zimbabwe had reported on the availability of healthcare centres and public hospitals throughout the country all of which are designed to serve everyone without discrimination and regardless of gender, ethnicity or disability. Zimbabwe also reported that in situations of emergency, specific government institutions intervene and provide ambulances, and that there are trauma centres available approximately 100 km from mine affected communities.
16. The Committee would welcome further information on efforts to address the difficulty to access first aid in mine affected regions.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

17. Zimbabwe reported that a referral system has been in place to facilitate access to services from community level upward to national level in accordance with the situation and needs for assistance of mine victims.
18. Zimbabwe reported that there are two separate directories of services, one for Government Ministries and another one for NGOs, and that the directories are accessible at district level.

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

19. Zimbabwe reported that some limited rehabilitation services, specialists, prosthetics technicians and physical therapists are available including in most rural and mined areas. Zimbabwe reported that in 2022, HALO Trust provided prosthetics to 15 mine survivors, in partnership with a local Prosthetics workshop.

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

20. Zimbabwe reported on the availability of psychological services through provincial and national healthcare, guided by Zimbabwe's Mental Health policy. Zimbabwe reported shortages in psychological and psychosocial support and the lack of peer-to-peer support and indicated the need to engage associations of mine victims.

21. The Committee would welcome information on efforts made to address gaps in psychological and psychosocial support including the absence of peer to peer support, in Zimbabwe.

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

22. Zimbabwe reported efforts to meet the social and economic needs of persons with disabilities, including by enforcing an employment quota; allocation of national budget for social protection services and vocational training; and, reserving 10% of the Basic Education and Assistance Model (BEAM) funds for children with disabilities.

23. Also, Zimbabwe reported on availability of a social protection safety net and budgetary allocation for disability programming across all social protection programmes.

24. The Committee would welcome additional information on inclusion of mine victims in social protection in Zimbabwe.

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

25. Zimbabwe reported that the safety and protection of persons with disabilities including mine survivors are integrated into National Humanitarian Response Preparedness led by the Civil Protection Unit.

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

26. Zimbabwe reported that organisations and associations of persons with disabilities are recognised by Government through the Disabled Persons Act which was being amended in line with the new National Disability Policy.

27. The Committee would welcome further information on progress made in ensuring inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representation organisations in matters pertinent to them.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

28. By adopting a new National Disability Policy, Zimbabwe showed its commitment to upholding the rights of persons with disabilities and mine survivors. Zimbabwe reported USD 500 000 as national financial commitment to the implementation of Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's obligations in 2022.

29. The Committee would welcome further information on financial and other commitments the government of Zimbabwe have made to implement victim assistance.

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

30. Zimbabwe reported that gender equality and diversity have been considered in mine action related activities including victim assistance and that the new National Disability Policy recognises the inherent dignity and worth of all human beings paying special attention to rights of persons with disabilities. Zimbabwe reported that the National Policy requires data to be disaggregated by gender, disability and age.

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

31. Zimbabwe reported challenges facing victim assistance efforts and largely remain the same those reported in 2022, such as the followings:

- A national standard for accessibility is yet to be developed;
- A national disability / mine victims survey to be carried out to find out the number and needs of mine victims and persons with disabilities;
- There is a need for a rehabilitation outreach programme;
- Peer to peer support is lacking; and
- A national resource mobilisation strategy/plan for victim assistance is yet to be developed.

32. The Committee would welcome information on how the international community could be of further support to Zimbabwe's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Victim Assistance
Zimbabwe

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 efforts made with regards to the accessibility of transportation and roads and efforts to develop a policy on universal design.
#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						
	# 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 would welcome further information on efforts to address the difficulty to access first aid in mine affected regions.
#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						
	# 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 information on efforts made to address gaps in psychological and psychosocial support including the absence of peer counselling, in Zimbabwe.
#39	# States Parties reporting on efforts to remove barriers to the social and economic inclusion of mine victims						The Committee would welcome additional information on inclusion of mine victims in social protection in Zimbabwe.

#40	# States Parties that report integrating protection of mine survivors in their humanitarian response and preparedness plans						
#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 would welcome further information on progress made in ensuring inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representation organisations in matters pertinent to them.
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 welcomes Zimbabwe to share information on national financial commitments by the Government of Zimbabwe 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						
	# 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 could be of further support to Zimbabwe's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.