

Talking notes 24-29 November 2024, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Zimbabwe as a State Party to the Convention on the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban provides Victim Assistance through the Department of Disability Affairs in the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. The Department of Disability Affairs has a coordinating role in victim assistance and all programmes related to the welfare and rights of persons with disabilities that are enshrined in the Disabled Persons Act (Chapter 17:01) and the National Disability Policy (2021), including landmine survivors. This is in line with Action #33 of the Oslo Action Plan.

The Government of Zimbabwe has established a National Technical Committee on Disability Issues, which has representatives from all our 26 government ministries and organizations of persons with disabilities, and which also facilitates the provision of Victim Assistance across sectors that include health, education, employment, climate change, etc. This fulfills the requirements of Action 34 and Sustainable Development Goals implementation as we move towards vision 2030.

On Action 35 this is still work in progress, the Government of Zimbabwe's needs assessment seeks to strengthen our establishment of a comprehensive database of landmine survivors and their families. Currently and due to budgetary constraints, there is a database for landmine survivors that have been profiled in 4 out of the 10 provinces of Zimbabwe.

On Action 36, the Government of Zimbabwe provides an Assisted Medical Treatment Order (AMTO) where victims can access services from public health care institutions. Some development partners who are doing mine clearance, also have first aid kits and ambulance services that are assisting victims in areas they are operating in.

The Government of Zimbabwe has a mainstream national referral system for social protection of vulnerable groups that include persons with disabilities that also comprise persons who acquire disabilities because of landmines, Action 37.

This is being accomplished through the needs assessment program where services are being brought closer to land mine survivors including in rural areas, through district offices of the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, that are located in both rural and urban communities, thus fulfilling the requirements of Action 38.

Land mine survivors are being included in all social protection programmes that include healthcare, education, and the Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy) thus enhancing their overall well being, in an effort to fulfil the requirements of Action 39.

On Action 40, the Civil Protection Unit in Zimbabwe under the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works coordinates the implementation of disaster risk reduction programmes, through committees at District, Provincial and National levels, thus strengthening inclusivity initiatives that also assist landmine victims.

On action 41, Zimbabwe has registered and accredited an organisation (Mine victims Assistance of Zimbabwe) on Victim Assistance in March 2023 under the Private Voluntary Organisations

Act (Chapter 17:05). This non-governmental organization compliments government efforts with regards to ensuring effective and meaningful participation of land mine survivors across sectors. The organisation works in partnership with the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Defence.

Challenges

The absence of a biometric database disaggregated by age, gender, disability, location etc., has compromised quality of service provision specific to landmine victims. A robust mine victim survey is being planned.

Planned interventions

- Conducting needs assessment of mine victims in all 10 provinces
- Mobilising resources towards landmine victim assistance programs
- Accelerating vocational training initiatives to foster sustainability and independence of mine victims
- Engage in research and data collection to inform policy and practice
- Strengthening multi -stakeholder collaboration in order to reach out to land mine victims, including those who are in hard-to-reach areas
- Strengthen microfinance initiatives for landmine victims in an effort to economically empower them
- Strengthen inclusion of mine victims in the broader national referral system which includes healthcare, justice delivery, education etc.

In conclusion, Zimbabwe remains committed to providing appropriate, affordable and accessible services to mine survivors and their families, in an effort to enhance their well-being.



Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties Siem Reap, Cambodia

25 - 29 November 2024

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Director, Disability Affairs



■ **PRESENTATION OUTLINE**

VICTIM ASSISTANCE UPDATE (ZIMBABWE)

CHALLENGES AND HOW THEY CAN BE RESOLVED IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

DIVERSE NEEDS OF MINE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES



ACTION 33



- Zimbabwe as a State Party to the Convention on the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban provides Victim Assistance through the Department of Disability Affairs in the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. The Department of Disability Affairs has a coordinating role in victim assistance and all programmes related to the welfare and rights of persons with disabilities that are enshrined in the Disabled Persons Act (Chapter 17:01) and the National Disability Policy (2021), including landmine survivors. This is in line with Action #33 of the Oslo Action Plan.



ACTION 34



The Government of Zimbabwe has established a National Technical Committee on Disability Issues, which has representatives from all our 26 government ministries and organizations of persons with disabilities, and which also facilitates the provision of Victim Assistance across sectors that include health, education, employment, climate change, etc. This fulfills the requirements of Action 34 and Sustainable Development Goals implementation as we move towards vision 2030.



ACTION 35



This is still work in progress, the Government of Zimbabwe's needs assessment seeks to strengthen our establishment of a comprehensive database of landmine survivors and their families. Currently and due to budgetary constraints there is a database for landmine survivors that have been profiled in 4 out of the 10 provinces of Zimbabwe



ACTION 36



- The Government of Zimbabwe provides an Assisted Medical Treatment Order (AMTO) where victims can access services from public health care institutions. Some development partners who are doing mine clearance, also have first aid kits and ambulance services that are assisting victims in areas they are operating in .



ACTION 37



- The Government of Zimbabwe has a mainstream national referral system for social protection of vulnerable groups that include persons with disabilities that also comprise persons who acquire disabilities because of landmines.



ACTION 38



- This is being accomplished through the needs assessment program where services are being brought closer to land mine survivors including in rural areas, through district offices of the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, that are located in both rural and urban communities.



ACTION 39



- Land mine survivors are being included in all social protection programmes that include healthcare, education, and the Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy) thus enhancing their overall well being, in an effort to fulfil the requirements of Action 39.



ACTION 40



- The Civil Protection Unit in Zimbabwe under the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works coordinates the implementation of disaster risk reduction programmes, through committees at District, Provincial and National levels, thus strengthening inclusivity initiatives that also assist landmine victims.



Action 41



- Zimbabwe has registered and accredited an organisation (Mine victims Assistance of Zimbabwe) on Victim Assistance in March 2023 under the Private Voluntary Organisations Act (Chapter 17:05). This non governmental organization compliments government efforts with regards to ensuring effective and meaningful participation of land mine survivors across sectors. The organisation works in partnership with the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Defence.



Challenges



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Planned interventions



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Conclusion



Zimbabwe remains committed to providing appropriate, affordable and accessible services to mine survivors and their families, in an effort to enhance their well being.



THANK YOU