

CHALLENGES IN IDENTIFYING MINE VICTIMS

Introduction

Zimbabwe as a State Party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) is obliged in line with the Oslo Action Plan 32 to carry out efforts to identify all mine and other explosive ordnance (EO) victims and collect accurate and comprehensive information on their needs, challenges and geographic locations. The information must be disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other considerations before integrating the data into the national centralised database, such as disability data systems. The State Party in its endeavour to carry out a mine victim national survey to enhance the implementation of the Oslo Action Plan 32 has encountered several challenges including funding, data systems/tools and participation and cooperation.

1. Funding

There is a dire need for donor funding to facilitate Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC) and Operators to collect Casualty Data and share it with the Department of Disability Affairs within the Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare (MPSLSW) for inclusion into the broader system. The exercise of identifying mine victims is capital intense because most of the

victims stay adjacent to the borderlines, of which some areas are remote and difficult to access. The lack of funding hampers the execution, effectiveness and efficiency of mine victim assistance activities. On 26 April 2024, ZIMAC accredited a local NGO named Mine Victim Assistance of Zimbabwe (MVAZ) to support landmine/EO survivors. However, a national survey for mine victims remains on the cards albeit funding constraints.

2. Data System/Tools

Information Management requires technological hardware and software to create, update, upgrade and analyse the centralised mine victim database. The Centre needs data collection software customised to collect information about mine victims and to be equipped with electronic data collection tools for remote data collection.

Conclusion

Zimbabwe is determined to identify all landmine and explosive ordinance victims, collect accurate and comprehensive information on their needs, challenges and geographical locations if the above challenges are addressed.

I THANK YOU