



## **Zimbabwe's National Stakeholder Dialogue: Humanitarian Demining and Assistance to Mine Victims, the Path Forward**

Harare, 18-20 February 2025 | [Final Programme](#)

### **Background**

Zimbabwe, which has suffered the devastating effects from the use of anti-personnel mines placed in the country in the 60s and 70s, was among the world's first countries to join the 1997 *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction* (also known as the AP Mine Ban Convention or Mine Ban Treaty).

By joining the Convention, Zimbabwe undertook to implement various obligations including Article 5, which calls on the State Party to “undertake to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control” along with other preventive measures. It also accepted to “provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration of mine victims and for mine awareness programs” as enshrined in Article 6.3. The latter concept known as *victim assistance* (VA), is a rights-based approach that sees its implementation being attached to a State Party's wider efforts to meet its Sustainable Development Goals and the rights of all persons with disabilities.

Within the Convention's framework, Zimbabwe has until 31 December 2025 to finalise clearance operations. While this milestone is at the fingertips, remaining barriers prevent the State Party from fulfilling the Article 5 obligation within this timeframe. Zimbabwe will therefore have to present a request to extend its mine clearance deadline. By decision of the States Parties, such requests should take into consideration feedback from stakeholders – including from mine-affected communities and their representative organisations – as well as partners. As Zimbabwe prepares for the imminent end of its clearance operations, the State Party will also need to start devising a plan for what it will need to do to address any residual contamination post completion.

In addition, assistance to mine victims – an obligation that has no expiration date – needs to be solidly incorporated in Zimbabwe's national development programmes and those covering the rights of persons with disabilities and will have to continue beyond mine clearance operations.

In this context, the Zimbabwean Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC) and the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) under the Ministry of Defence, are the national structures for implementing aspects related to Article 5. VA implementation is carried out by the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. These national agencies will therefore jointly host a **National Stakeholder Dialogue on Humanitarian Demining and Victim Assistance from 18-20 February 2025 at the Rainbow Hotel**.

Technical backing for the Dialogue, is provided by the Convention's Implementation Support Unit (ISU), while the financial support is provided by the Council of the European Union (EU) which adopted Decision 2021/257 “in the framework of the European Security Strategy and in accordance with relevant Decisions of the international community” to support implementation of the Convention.

## Zimbabwe National Dialogue on Humanitarian Demining and Victim Assistance | Day One

**08:30 – 09:00 | Arrival of participants – welcome coffee - Registration**

**09:00 – 10:30 | Opening Session (Moderated by Mr. T Chilowa Director of the National Mine Action Authority of Zimbabwe (NMAA) and the Director of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines, Mr Juan Carlos Ruan)**

- National anthem by ZNA Band and Opening Prayer by Army Chaplain
- **Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution Harare Metropolitan Province - Hon. C Tavengwa**
- **Ministry of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare – Mr. T. Zimhunga**
- **Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zimbabwe H.E. Mr YAMANAKA Shinichi, representing the Presidency of the AP Mine Ban Convention**
- **Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Zimbabwe H.E. Mr Pete Vowels**
- **Ambassador of the European Union to Zimbabwe H.E. Mr Jobst Von Kirchmann**
- **Traditional Leader as representative of mine-affected communities and survivors Chief Nechombo**
- **Permanent Secretary for Defence Mr ADT Nhepera**

**Keynote:**

- **Minister of Defence the Honourable OCZ Muchinguri-Kashiri**

**Group photo – 15 minutes**

**10:45 – 12:30 | Lessons Learnt and Challenges in Addressing the Socioeconomic Impact of AP Mines**

- **Remaining contamination and challenges faced in reaching completion: ZIMAC Director Colonel Maregere** on progress made by Zimbabwe since its 2017 extension request, qualitative nature of the remaining contamination, and needs to reach completion.
- **The Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan: ISU Director J. Ruan** on the Article 5 extension request process and opportunities for Zimbabwe in 2025.
- **Remaining socio-economic impact - Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
- **Donor perspective on land release**
- **Discussion Q&A**

**Lunch (90 minutes)**

**14:00 – 16:00 | Roadmap Ahead**

- **Considerations for completion: ZIMAC Coordinator Lt. Col. S. Moyo** on preparations for capacity to address residual contamination, demobilisation of demining personnel and other considerations.
- **Status of operations and considerations for completion : APOPO, HALO Trust, MAG, NPA, NMCU Zimbabwe**
- **Explosive Ordnance Risk Education: Ms. Memory Mutepfa, NPA**
- **Discussion Q&A – feedback: All participants feedback in plenary**

**Coffee break taken in group discussion**

**16:00 – 16:45 | Conclusions and Next Steps**

- **Next steps for implementation: ZIMAC Director Colonel Maregere**

**16:45 – 17:00 | Closing Session**

- **Closing remarks by Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution of Mashonaland East Province Hon. I. Ndudzo**
- **Overview of Day 2 of Dialogue: ISU Director**

**09:00 – 09:45 | Opening of the Victim Assistance Dialogue Moderated by Mr T. Zimhunga and Mr F. Alizada**

- **Presentation of Programme for the day- Deputy Director of Disability - Mr. S. Nyeperayi**
- **Inspirational speaker – Ms. Patience Musambizi**
- **Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare - Mr S. Masanga**

**Key note:**

- **Minister of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare - Honourable Minister Edgar Moyo**

**09:45 – 10:30 | Understanding Victim Assistance Obligation and Disability Rights**

Experts will speak on victim assistance in the framework of the Convention and complementarities with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Emphasis will be placed on the importance of intersectionality in designing inclusive policies and impactful programmes.

- **Implementation Support Unit, Victim Assistance Expert Mr Firoz Alizada**
- **African Union’s Commission for Human and People’s Rights and Commissioner for Women, Children, Older Persons and Disability Rights of Ethiopia, Rigbe Gebrehawaria**
- **Overview of the Disability Affairs Department and Unpacking the 2021 National Disability Policy Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare Mrs Chourombo**
- **Q &A–feedback:** All participants feedback in plenary

Coffee break in parallel

**10:30 – 12:00 | National Implementation: Progress and Challenges**

Zimbabwe ratified the CRPD in 2013 and adopted its first National Disability Policy (NDP) in 2021, offering a comprehensive framework for the rights of persons with disabilities including mine survivors. That year, Zimbabwe commissioned a study to analyse the state of the rights of persons with disabilities, which provided a comprehensive analysis. The MPLSW through its Department of Disability Affairs has been mandated to lead implementation of the NDP. Presenters will provide updates on Zimbabwe’s implementation of the NDP, VA initiatives, and the challenges faced in advancing these efforts.

- **Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare Mr S. Masanga**
- **Minister of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs**
- **Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs**
- **Ministry of Health and Child Care, Mr K. Ncube**
- **Ministry of Women Affairs, Small and Medium Enterprises**
- **Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion**
- **Discussion Q&A – feedback:** All participants feedback in plenary

Lunch (90 minutes)

**13:30 – 14:30 | Integrating Victim Assistance and Disability into Broader Frameworks**

The NDP mandates ministries and other service providers to mainstream disability into public policies and programmes, including health, education, social protection, labour and broader development frameworks. This approach aligns with commitments under the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan (SRAAP), which requires the States Parties with mine victims in areas under jurisdiction or control to integrate victim assistance in broader frameworks. Expert representatives of civil society organisations and UN provide/ share their observations on state of play including the mainstreaming of victim assistance and disabilities in Zimbabwe.

- **Federation of Organisations of Disabled People in Zimbabwe (FODPZ) Name**
- **UN Development Programme (UNDP) Name**
- **Mine Victim Assistance in Zimbabwe (MVAZ) Name**
- **Discussion Q &A – feedback:** All participants feedback in plenary

Coffee break taken in group discussion

**14:30 – 16:30 | Breakout Session: Addressing Key Challenges & Report Back to Plenary**

Group exercise to identify the top ten challenges faced by persons with disabilities, including mine survivors and their families. The groups will also propose tailored and realistic recommendations for the government to address these gaps.

- **Report back to plenary and discussion Q &A – feedback:** All participants feedback in plenary

**16:30 – 17:00 | Closing Session**

- **Preparing for next day**

*Programme continues*

**Zimbabwe National Dialogue on Humanitarian Demining and Victim Assistance | Day Three**

**09:00 – 09:15 | Opening Session (Moderated by Mr. T Zimhunga and ISU Officer Mr Firoz Alizada)**

- **Presentation of Programme for the day- Mr T. Zimhunga**
- **Inspirational speaker: Senator and President of the National Council of Persons with Disabilities Annah Shiri**

**09:15 – 10:00 | Data Collection**

Action 32 of the SRAAP calls on States Parties to “carry out efforts to identify all mine and other explosive ordnance victims and collect accurate and comprehensive information on their needs, challenges and geographic locations in a manner disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other considerations, making data on mine and other explosive ordnance victims available to relevant stakeholders including by integrating this data into a national centralised database, such as disability data systems.” Zimbabwe has reported challenges in identifying mine victims, experts will discuss these obstacles while sharing tools and strategies for overcoming them.

- **Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre - ZIMAC Director Colonel Maregere**
- **Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT)**
- **Leonard Cheshire Disability**
- **UNICEF**
- **African Union’s Commission for Human and People’s Rights and Commissioner for Women, Children, Older Persons and Disability Rights of Ethiopia Rigbe Gebrehawaria**
- **Discussion Q &A – feedback**

**10:00 – 10:30 | Uganda’s Experience in Sustaining Assistance to Mine Victims Past Mine Clearance Completion**

Since 1999 Uganda has been implementing victim assistance. In 2009, as State Party to the Convention, Uganda declared itself a mine-free country. In 2023, the State Party Chaired the Convention’s Committee on Victim Assistance further solidifying its role and understanding of victim assistance beyond mine clearance completion. An international expert from Uganda will share some of the experience and best practice for integrating victim assistance provisions into national policies and programmes.

- **Uganda’s victim assistance expert and focal point for the Convention, Senior Rehabilitation Officer and Coordinator of National Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) at the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Development Ms Agnes Nampeera**
- **Discussion Q &A – feedback**

Coffee break

**10:45 – 12:00 | Rehabilitation & Assistive Technology**

Rehabilitation is a critical aspect of victim assistance and cannot be overlooked. Article 26 of the CRPD requires the States Parties to provide *habilitation* and rehabilitation including assistive devices, which is complemented by Action 35 of the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan. The NDP outlines ten objectives in this area and assigns the Ministry of Health and Child Care the responsibility of working with the Department of Disability Affairs to deliver these services. Experts will provide insights into the latest developments in rehabilitation and assistive technologies.

- **Ministry of Health and Child Care, Mr K. Ncube**
- **Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation Science and Technology Development**
- **Cassim Prosthetics and Orthotics – Mr Noordeen Cassim**
- **World Health Organization – Mr Abdelrahman Elwishahy**
- **Amputees Self-Help Network of Uganda – Mr Alex Munyambabazi**
- **Discussion Q&A – feedback**

Lunch (90 minutes)

**13:30 – 14:30 | Reaching Out to Victims in Communities**

A common challenge faced by States Parties is the delivery of services in rural and remote areas, especially those affected by anti-personnel mines and explosive ordnance. Participants will have an opportunity hear from survivors representing mine affected remote and rural communities of Zimbabwe, who will share their experiences and observations; access to services and challenges that hinder their inclusion and participation.

- **Local government representative – Civil protection – Mr Sadza**
- **Survivor representative from communities**
- **Family member of survivor/victim from communities - Ms I. Kwaramba**
- **Discussion Q&A – feedback**

Coffee break

**14:45 – 16:30 | Cooperation and Assistance**

Action 43 of the SRAAP, requires that the “States Parties in a position to do so will provide assistance to affected States Parties in the implementation of their obligations under the Convention [...]. Provide support to victim assistance through earmarked funding in the mine action budget and/or through integrating victim assistance into broader development and humanitarian efforts by ensuring that this broader funding is relevant to the needs and interests of victims, including mine survivors and persons with disabilities.”

Zimbabwe has been making significant progress in meeting its Article 5 obligations and has taken steps to address the needs of mine victims. Cooperation and assistance will be a crucial enabler for completion of mine clearance and also for strengthening victim assistance efforts. This session will be moderated by the Director of the ISU, JC Ruan.

- **Presentation by Ministry of Defence and MOPLSW: overview of needs for cooperation and assistance in mine action and victim assistance**
- **Requirements for assistance: APOPO, HALO Trust, MAG, NPA, NMCU**
- **Current and potential donors and other partners and stakeholders are invited to actively participate.**

**16:30 – 17:00 | Closing Session and Evaluation of the Event**

- **Honorary Ambassador of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Mrs Margaret Arach Orch of Uganda in representation of civil society organisations**
- **Delegation of the European Union**
- **Honourable Deputy Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare M. Dinha**