



The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Ministry of Women and Social Affairs
(MoWSA)

**Progress Report of the Status of Victim
Assistance in Ethiopia (2024/25)**



June, 17/2025
Geneva



Contents

- Introduction
- Government Efforts and Commitments on VA
- Challenges
- Priority Areas and support needs
- Conclusions



- Ethiopia has experienced a series of internal and external armed conflicts throughout its history, leaving a legacy of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) scattered throughout the country.
- The outbreak of conflict in November 2020 between the central government and the regional authorities of the Tigray region, which has spilled over in to the neighboring Afar and Amhara regions in 2021, has added new explosive ordnance contamination that poses an immediate threat to life and livelihoods of civilians.

2. Government Efforts on victim assistance



- **Victim assistance** work in Ethiopia is **multifaceted, involving legal frameworks, specific programs, and coordination mechanisms** .
- While challenges remain, the government, often in collaboration with international organizations and local NGOs, is engaged in various initiatives . Here are the efforts :

2.1 . National Initiatives and Legal frameworks for Victim Assistance:



- **National Disability Policy , and**
- **Ethiopian Disability Act -**
- **National Disability Action Plan (2026-2035):**
- **National Victim Assistance Strategy (2016-2020):**
- **Community - Based Rehabilitation Strategy (CBR):**
- **Coordination Mechanisms /NDICF/**
- **Proclamation for the Rehabilitation of Ethiopian Heroes with War-Related Disabilities**
- **Proclamation 1263/2021 – It gives mandates for inclusions of persons with disabilities and victims in all aspects.**



2. 2. Services and Support Systems for Victim Assistance:



- **Prosthetic and orthopedic services for victims**

In 2024/25- more than 600 prosthetic and orthopedic services were given for victims in Afar and Tigray regions.



- **Rehabilitations services were given for victims in PRC**





- **Assistive Devices Support** - More than 18,000 different types of Assistive devices were distributed in 2024/25.
- **Capacity Building** : Since 2024/25, the Ethiopian Gov't has allocated about 21 million birr in addition to technical supports, materials so as to strengthen OPDs mainly in conflict areas.
- **Awareness Raising** : Various professionals (law enforcement, healthcare workers, social workers, NGO staff) were given on victim-centered approaches, trauma-informed care,



- **Women and Girl - Friendly Safe Spaces :** Particularly in conflict - affected regions like Tigray, Over 681,000 women and girls accessed these services since 2023 .
- **Physical accessibility of health and education facilities ;** technical and financial support to small business groups ; holistic approach to disability interventions and programming including inclusive healthcare, education and livelihoods .
- **Psychosocial Support :** since 2023 for more than 10 thousands peoples were given psychosocial support in the conflict areas .

2. 3. Community Engagement and Awareness:



- **Community Outreach Programs:** MOWSA conduct joint initiatives with other stakeholders to address stigma against survivors through community outreach and awareness-raising sessions.
- **Training and Capacity Building:** Providing training to community members and local actors to enhance their understanding of victim support, and referral mechanisms.
- **Community Dialogues and Forums:** Creating platforms for survivors to share their stories and experiences, fostering understanding and empathy within the community.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Utilizing various Government media channels and community events to disseminate information about violence prevention and available services.



- **Engaging Community Leaders and Influencers:** Working with religious leaders, elders, and other influential figures to promote positive social norms and support for victims.
- **Establishing Community-Based Structures:** Supporting the creation of local networks and mechanisms for identifying and assisting victims.
- **Participatory Approaches:** Involving affected people in the design and implementation of protection strategies to ensure relevance and effectiveness.
- **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs):** MOWSA signed agreements between government bodies and CSOs aim to improve coordination in identifying, referring, and protecting in victims assistance.

2. 4. Collaboration with Victim Assistance providers



- Collaboration among victim assistance providers is crucial for a comprehensive and effective response to the diverse needs of victims in Ethiopia.
 - **Government Agencies:** MoWSA coordinates, the **Ministry of Justice** handles legal frameworks, and the **Ministry of Health** provides medical care.
 - **Local NGOs:** ECDD focuses on inclusive healthcare and economic support, while **SRARO**, as a survivor-led organization, provides vocational training and peer support.
 - **International Partners:** UN agencies like **UNFPA, UNICEF, and UNHCR** collaborate on service delivery and policy.. Numerous INGOs, such as the **IRC, Save the Children, and HI**, implement various vital victim assistance activities.
 - **Community -Based Organizations (CBOs) and Networks :**
 - These organizations play a vital role in reaching victims at the grassroots level by raising awareness, and providing initial support.

3. Challenges:



- **Limited data on Victim Assistance** - limited comprehensive data specifically labeled "Victim Assistance" in Ethiopia,
- **Limited Geographical Coverage** - Services are not uniformly accessible across the country, especially in rural and remote areas.
- **Stigma** - Survivors often face significant social stigma, hindering their access to support and reintegration.
- **Resource Limitations** - Insufficient resources can restrict the scale and sustainability of programs.
- **Coordination Gaps** - While improving, better coordination is still needed among various actors.
- **Legal Framework Weaknesses** - The legal framework for victim rights needs further strengthening to ensure comprehensive protection and access to justice.
- **Limited Capacity** - Gaps in staffs



- **Resource constraints** in the Physical Rehabilitation Centres , including trained technicians and professionals as well as equipment and materials for PWDs in general and landmine survivors in particular ;
- **The unresolved hostilities and potential conflicts** in some parts of the country will contribute additional land mine victims specially in Amhara , Afar and Tigray regions of in the north part of the country ;

4. Priority Areas / Need supports/



- Key actions crucial for improving the lives of people with disabilities (PWDs) and mine victims . These actions include :
 - **Legal Implementation** : Ensuring current and future laws related to disability and victim support are aligned and actively put into practice.
 - **Organizational Strengthening** : Enhancing the capacity and coordination of organizations involved in providing assistance to PWDs and victims.
 - **Data Improvement** : Improving the collection and analysis of data regarding PWDs and mine victims to better understand their needs.
 - **Awareness and Advocacy** : Increasing public awareness and advocating for the rights and needs of victims.
 - **Sustainable Funding** : Securing sufficient and consistent financial support for Victim assistance and disability programs and services.
 - **Integration into Aid**: Making disability and victim assistance a core component of humanitarian aid and recovery efforts,

5. Conclusions



- To conclude, Ethiopia extends its profound gratitude to all its partners – national and international, governmental and non-governmental – for their invaluable collaboration, expertise, and sustained support.
- Your partnership is indispensable as Ethiopia navigates this complex journey.
- Together, we bear a collective responsibility to continue working hand-in-hand to build a more inclusive, just, and compassionate society where all victims receive the support and dignity, so they rightfully deserve.





Thank you !