

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

NICARAGUA

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – VICTIM ASSISTANCE

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Austria, Burkina Faso (Chair), the Netherlands, and Sri Lanka)

Intersessional Meetings

17-20 June 2025

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Nicaragua of updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACTIONS:

Ensure that a relevant government entity in affected States Parties is assigned as the focal point to coordinate victim assistance and oversee and enhance the integration of victim assistance activities into broader national policies, plans, budgets, and legal frameworks (Actions 30, 1 and 2)

2. Nicaragua reported that the National Council for the Promotion and Enforcement of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the National Council) has been the entity responsible for the implementation of the Law 763 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Under the leadership of the Minister of the Ministry of Health, the Council includes 17 public institutions, federation of associations of persons with disabilities and a representative of parents of children with disabilities.

Develop a national specific, measurable, realistic, and time-bound disability action plan (Actions 30 and 3)

3. Nicaragua reported implementing the 2022-2026 National Human Development Plan and that the Nation Plan is comprehensive in addressing poverty, inequality and promoting the rights of general population, including victims of the war and their families. In 2023, Nicaragua reported that the National Plan integrates the needs of mine victims.

Include mine and other explosive ordnance victims or their representative organisations, in victim assistance planning and implementation at the national and local level (Actions 30, 31 and 39)

4. Nicaragua reported that representative organisations of persons with disabilities are included in relevant programmes and policies.

Report on progress and challenges in implementing their national action plans (Action 30)

5. Nicaragua reported measures in place at policy and programme levels to meet the needs of general population including mine survivors and persons with disabilities.

6. The Committee would welcome information on challenges faced in meeting the needs and guaranteeing the rights of mine survivors and affected families.

Carry out inter-ministerial and multi-sectoral efforts to ensure that the needs and rights of mine and other explosive ordnance victims are effectively addressed (Action 31)

7. Nicaragua reported that 17 public institutions, federations of associations of persons with disabilities and representative of parents of children with disabilities participate in provision and delivery of services to persons with disabilities.
8. Nicaragua reported implementing National Plan for Poverty Reduction and Human Development 2022–2026 that address the needs of the general population, including mine survivors and affected families. The Committee recalls that in 2024, Nicaragua reported applying multi-sectoral efforts including through the National Council for Persons with Disabilities and through the National Plan for Poverty Reduction and Human Development, both of which taking an inclusive approach. In 2023, Nicaragua reported that national efforts are aligned with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

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 (Action 32 and also Action 9)

9. Nicaragua reported a total of 1,276 mine victims. Nicaragua also reported that no casualty due to explosive devices was recorded from April 2010 until December 2024. Nicaragua reported that as of 2024, the number of persons with disabilities is reported at 194,425.

10. The Committee would welcome further disaggregated information on age, gender, and disability of the 1,276 mine victims, and information on indirect victims, such as families affected by mines.

Integrate the data on mine and other explosive ordnance victims into a national centralised database, such as disability data systems (Actions 32 and 9)

11. Nicaragua reported that the Ministry of Health implements a national database on health that maintains data related to healthcare and another database exists under the “Todos Con Voz” programme that register persons with disabilities. Nicaragua reported that as of 2023, the “Todos Con Voz” programme had registered and certified 178,523 persons with disabilities, drawing attention to their healthcare, special needs, and the need for improvement in their quality of life.

Provide effective and efficient context-specific emergency medical care to new casualties and improve national capacity through training, including on psychosocial first care, specialized training for health professionals and layperson first responder training in affected communities (Action 33)

12. Nicaragua reported no casualties due to anti-personnel mines or other explosive ordnances.

Ensure that mine and other explosive ordnance survivors have access to health services including in rural and remote areas (Action 33)

13. Nicaragua reported that in accordance with the National Plan for Poverty Reduction and Human Development, efforts are made to improve healthcare services including through mobile services to reach out to communities in remote areas of the country.
14. Nicaragua reported that currently, the Ministry of Health has 66 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Units, 17 of which are departmental hospitals, 17 are primary hospitals, 13 are Health Centers with Physicians, 14 are Health Posts, and 5 are community-based rehabilitation units. Nicaragua reported that the Ministry of Health also supports Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR), involving family and community members in the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, with 1,846 trained and active community health workers nationwide.

Ensure that a national/sub-administrative area referral mechanism is in place to facilitate access to services (Action 34)

15. The Committee recalls that in 2024, Nicaragua reported having a referral mechanism within healthcare systems, and that the Ministry of Health work in coordination with Nicaraguan Army and Social Security Institute (INSS) to ensure provision of healthcare services to persons with disabilities including mine victims.

Create and disseminate a comprehensive directory of services available, accessible, and inclusive for all mine and other explosive ordnance victims (Action 34)

16. The Committee would welcome information in this regard.

Efforts to increase the availability and accessibility of rehabilitation services (Action 35)

17. Nicaragua reported on availability of rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities including mine survivors. In 2024, Nicaragua reported that the Ministry of Health continued providing rehabilitation services through the followings:

- Rehabilitation services, located in the Departmental capitals.
- Physiotherapy Units, located in the Municipal Health Centres.
- The Aldo Chavarría National Rehabilitation School Hospital.
- National Centre for Audiology and Speech Therapy located at the Aldo Chavarría Rehabilitation Hospital.
- The Antonio Lenin Fonseca School Hospital.
- The Jose Dolores Fletes Psychosocial Hospital and in the departmental hospitals, specialised in provision of psychiatric care.
- Orthotics and Prosthetics Centres, located in Managua, Estelí, and Puerto Cabezas.
- The Nicaraguan health system has eight audiological units, located in the departments of Managua, León, Matagalpa, Estelí, Chontales, Jinotega, Bluefields and Masaya.

18. Nicaragua reported that the 1,276 mine victims were provided with training, prosthetics, and other assistance to facilitate their integration into society, with support of the Organization of American States (OAS). Nicaragua reported that in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) four workshops were conducted to strengthen access to assistive orthopaedic services.

Ensure to provide assistive technology (Action 35)

19. Nicaragua reported the Institute of Nicaraguan Revolutionary Rehabilitations (ORD), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, produces and provides prosthetics, wheelchairs, crutches, and trainings to mine victims.

Increase resources and national capacity to make assistive technology affordable and accessible (Action 35)

20. The Committee would welcome an update on progress made in enhancing national or local capacity and resources to make assistive products more affordable and accessible.

Ensure mine victims have access to psychological and psychosocial support services including to mental health (Action 36)

21. Nicaragua reported that in accordance with the National Plan for Poverty Reduction and Human Development, efforts are made to strengthen the 17 psychosocial care centres and the local comprehensive health care systems to improve mental health services to mine victims, their families and others in need of such assistance.

Efforts to make peer-to-peer support availability including by integrating it into public healthcare and other relevant systems (Action 36)

22. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.

Meet the social and economic inclusion needs of mine victims (Action 37)

23. Nicaragua reported on the creation of a centre for inclusion of persons with disabilities in society, in collaboration with organisations of persons with disabilities, police, firefighters and public officials. The Committee recalls that in 2024, Nicaragua reported that, in compliance with the National Plan for Poverty Reduction and Human Development and its guidelines to eradicate poverty and inequality, it has promoted policies to eliminate all kinds of physical, social, cultural, economic, political, and other barriers to guarantee the reintegration of mine survivors into society.

Remove barriers to the social and economic inclusion of mine survivors and affected families (Action 37)

24. The Committee would welcome further information in this regard.

The number of mine and other explosive ordnance survivors and affected families accessing social and economic services (Action 37)

25. The Committee would welcome further information in this regard.

Ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risk (Action 38)

26. Nicaragua reported that the National System for Prevention and Attention to Disasters developed instructions to meet the needs of persons with disabilities in situations of natural emergencies.

27. The Committee would welcome further information in this regard.

Increase inclusion of and access by mine victims into programmes for humanitarian assistance, risk reduction, and conflict preparedness and protection (Action 38)

28. Nicaragua reported on a guide on raising awareness and empowering communities to include persons with disabilities in disaster risk management (GIRD) with the aim to promote the participation of persons with disabilities, their families and organisations in the process of disaster risk reduction.

Improve accessibility and strive to remove physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal, and communications barriers (Actions 39 and 37)

29. Nicaragua reported on efforts made to make public parks and recreational areas accessible to make sure persons with disabilities including mine survivors face no barriers to access them.

Include survivors and/or their representative organisations in matters that affect them, including in planning and implementation at the national and community levels (Actions 39, 38 and 30)

30. The Committee would welcome further information in this regard.

CROSS - CUTTING ACTIONS:

Demonstrate high levels of national ownership, partnership and coordination (Action 1)

31. Nicaragua reported on implementation of the National Plan for Poverty Reduction and Human Development in addressing the needs of the general population, including mine victims.

Ensure that gender, age, disability considerations, and the diverse needs and experiences of people in mine-affected communities including mine survivors, are considered (Action 5)

32. The Committee recalls that Nicaragua reported that gender and diversity are considered in all relevant national plans and programmes, including the needs of women, girls, boys, men, and indigenous communities.

33. The Committee would welcome further information considerations of age.

Allocating national financial commitments for victim assistance implementation (Action 40)

34. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.

Having a resource mobilisation plan (for victim assistance) in place (Action 41)

35. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.

SRAAP country reporting tracker							
Victim Assistance							
Nicaragua							
Actions	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information or clarification requested by the Committee
30	% of affected States Parties that report on the relevant government entity assigned as the focal point to oversee and enhance the integration of victim assistance into broader national policies, plans, budgets, and legal frameworks to ensure its sustainability, including following Article 5 completion;						
	% of affected States Parties that report having an inclusive national action plan in place considering mine and other explosive ordnance victims, gender, age, disability, and other considerations and containing specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound objectives;						
	% of affected States Parties that report including mine and other explosive ordnance victims or their representative organisations, in victim assistance planning and implementation at the national and local level;						
	% of affected States Parties that report on progress and challenges in implementing their national action plans.						The Committee would welcome information on challenges faced in meeting the needs and guaranteeing the rights of mine survivors and affected families.
31	% of affected States Parties that report having in place an interministerial and multi-sectoral coordination mechanism to ensure that the needs and rights of mine and other explosive ordnance victims are addressed;						
	% of affected States Parties that report including the needs and rights of mine and other explosive ordnance victims in relevant national policies, legal frameworks, and budgets.						
32	% of affected States Parties that report on efforts to identify mine and other explosive ordnance victims and disaggregate victim data by gender, age, disability, and other considerations;						The Committee would welcome further disaggregated information on age, gender, and disability of the 1,276 mine victims, and information on indirect victims, such as families affected by mines.
	% of affected States Parties that report the inclusion of data on mine and other explosive ordnance victims in a national centralised database such as disability data systems and make data available to relevant stakeholders in accordance with data protection regulations/measures.						
33	% of affected States Parties that report having a mechanism in place to ensure an efficient and effective emergency response to new casualties;						
	% of affected States Parties that report on availability and accessibility of health services, including in rural and remote areas.						
34	% of affected States Parties that report having a national/sub-administrative referral mechanism in place which is available, accessible, and inclusive for all mine victims;						
	% of affected States Parties that report having a comprehensive directory of services available, accessible, and inclusive for all mine victims.						The Committee would welcome information in this regard.
35	% of affected States Parties that report on efforts to increase the availability and accessibility of rehabilitation services;						
	% of affected States Parties that report on the provision of assistive technology;						
	% of States Parties that report on efforts to increase resources and national capacity to make assistive technology affordable and accessible.						The Committee would welcome an update on progress made in enhancing national or local capacity and resources to make assistive products more affordable and accessible.

36	% of affected States Parties that report on mine and other explosive ordnance survivors and affected families accessing mental health and psychological support disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other relevant factors;						
	% of affected States Parties that report on the provision of and integrating peer-to-peer support into public healthcare and other relevant systems.						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
37	% of affected States Parties that report on efforts to remove barriers to the social and economic inclusion of mine survivors and affected families;						The Committee would welcome further information in this regard.
	% of affected States Parties that report on programmes for inclusive employment, livelihoods, and other social protection services;						
	% of affected States Parties that report on the number of mine and other explosive ordnance survivors and affected families accessing social and economic services, disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other relevant factors.						The Committee would welcome information in this regard.
38	% of affected States Parties that report integrating the safety and protection of mine survivors in their emergency/humanitarian response and preparedness plans;						The Committee would welcome further information in this regard.
	% of affected States Parties that report on mine victims' inclusion and accessibility to programmes for humanitarian assistance, risk reduction, and conflict preparedness and protection.						
39	% of affected States Parties that report on progress in removing physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal, and communication barriers;						
	% of affected States Parties that report including survivors and/or their representative organisations in matters that affect them, including in planning and implementation at the national and community levels.						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS							
1	% of affected States Parties that report integrating Convention implementation activities into: national development plans and budgets, strategies and budgets including on poverty reduction, humanitarian response, on health and mental health, gender equality inclusion of persons with disabilities, peacebuilding, Human Rights, climate change adaptation plans, environmental protection and improvement, and/or disaster risk reduction						
	% of affected States Parties that report having strengthened partnerships and coordinated Convention implementation activities with relevant humanitarian, peacebuilding, climate, environmental, development, health, disability, and human rights sectors						
5	% of affected States Parties that report national work plans and strategies integrating gender, age, disability considerations, and the diverse needs and experiences of people in mine-affected communities including mine survivors;						The Committee would welcome further information considerations of age.
	% of affected States Parties that report national work plans and strategies developed through inclusive consultation with stakeholders including survivors and representatives of mine-affected communities						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
	of mine victims and survivor organisations participating in Convention meetings						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
40	% of affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to their implementation of victim assistance.						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
	% of States Parties that report on exploring all sources of funding, including conventional and alternative/innovative						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
41	% of affected States Parties that report on progress, challenges in implementation, and requirements for assistance.						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
	% of affected States Parties that report having a resource mobilisation plan in place.						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.
	% of affected States Parties that have taken advantage of the Individualised Approach.						The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.