

The Republic of the Sudan

National Mine Action Center (NMAC)



Victims Assistance Report

2018

1. Introduction

- a. The state's attention to persons with disabilities considered a humanitarian and ethical commitment which was practically culminated by the clear steps, programs and policies enacted by the state. Most notably of these steps which were undertaken by the state in this vein are the appointment of an official from the persons with disabilities with the rank of Minister and the enactment of the National Act of Persons with Disabilities in 2017, which was passed by the National Assembly in its session No (41), convened on 10 January 2017 and endorsed by the President of the Republic on 24 February 2017. The National Act of persons with Disabilities serves to institutionalize the role of the state towards this segment of the disabled persons and more importantly preserves rights, privileges, facilities and exemptions availed to them by the enacted laws in consistency with the international conventions Sudan has already ratified and its governmental departments pledged with its observance and implement. (A copy of the Act is attached)

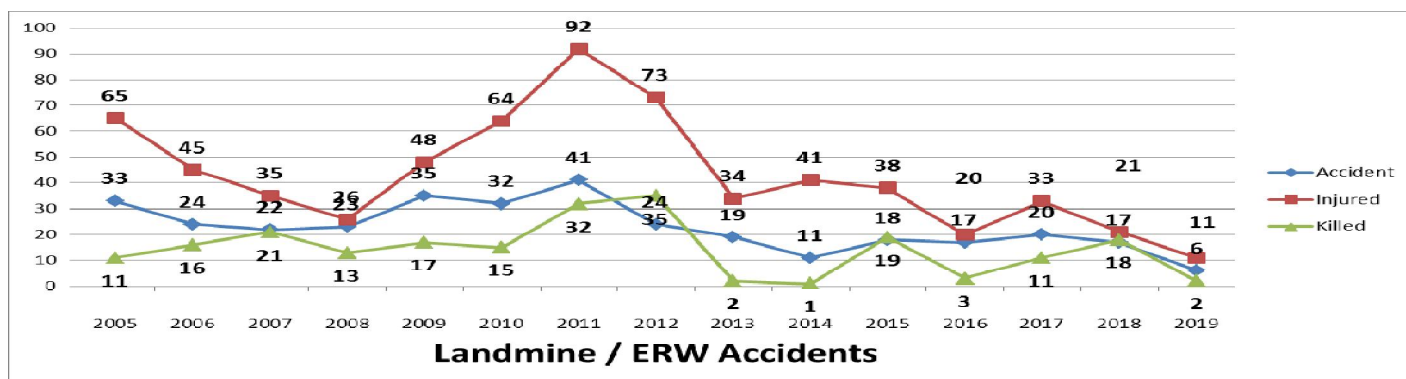


- b. The strategic role of NMAC in Sudan's mine action program can be obviously seen in NMAC mandate to oversee the overall works and activities that basically seek to curb the risks originated from landmines and Explosive Remnant of War (ERW) and in realization of the program's vision and strategic task which all come in alignment with the state's general policies set towards mine action, victims' assistance, raising the awareness of communities' at risk against the danger of mine/ERW and most importantly on how to cope with the reality of mines and ERW presence.
- c. Proceeding along from this strategic role, NMAC has founded the National Victims' Assistance Program to serve in particular those whom have been impacted by mine/ERW through a set of governmental acts, policies, programs and practical procedures set in forth in view of the Sudan National Mine Action Standards-SNMAS 09.02 on Victims' Assistance which were especially customized and drafted in order to meet the needs of mine/ERW targeted victims in an adequate and systematic pattern that established on the basis of professionalism and institutionalism and at the same time it works to ensure the outreach of the designated assistance – which predefined based on the results of the pre-assessments of their specific needs - to the needy victims through the medium of civil society organizations and others relevant community-based organizations.

2. Data Collection

- NMAC sub-offices, national organizations working in mine action, specialized entities of the disabled persons such as the National Association for Prosthetics and Unions for the Disabled Persons are all adopted as tools and mechanisms to collect data on the victims of mine/ERW. Following the data on victims being collected through the fore-mentioned mechanisms, it will be verified, processed, registered and captured in the database managed by the department of information management. The purposes of the data being collected and processed is to ensure the provision of the right needs to the right victims, bearing in mind the routine update of the data to ensure its accuracy, reliability and validity in terms of credentials related to victims in aspects such as gender, age, killed, survived, types of injury, economical activity at the time of accident and collateral victims if any.
- In order to ensure the updating and accuracy of information, some of the most mine/ERW affected localities in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Kassala states were re-surveyed by NMAC sub-offices and national mine action organizations. Unfortunately, the re-survey of those places has not been completed partly due to unfavorable security situation predominant in some parts of South Kordofan and Blue Nile states and partly due to the insufficient financial support earmarked for the re-survey in comparison to the amount of survey work which required to be accomplished.
- Given the fore-mentioned challenges which have substantially hindered the completion of the re-survey in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, the information which had already been gathered during the past conducted surveys will be analyzed instead. Then refer to the previous collected information from areas where the re-survey was unable to reach. The ultimate ends of the survey is to meticulously assess the actual size of the needs required to be met then after to widely propagate the gathered information for the use of the stakeholders and other concerned bodies e.g. the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, National Association for Prosthetics, National Organizations operating in mine action and particularly in victim assistance projects and other related UN Agencies.
- Since 2002 and until February 2019, the number of victims which was reported amounted to 2149. 1530 out of them are classified as injured meanwhile 619 are reported to be killed. In 2019, 13 persons were registered as victims in North, central and South Darfur states chiefly by the cause of ERW accidents involvement. In this context, it is worth mentioning that no mine related accident was reported during the course of the year 2018. More detailed explanation is shows in the below table and chart:

State	Killed						Injured						Total
	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Not Specified	Total	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Not Specified	Total	
Blue Nile	83	1	30	2	29	145	182	15	54	3	50	304	449
Central Darfur	0	0	7	3	2	12	6	6	30	6	2	50	62
Eastern Darfur	3	2	9	3	2	19	9	0	21	6	2	38	57
Gadaref	1	0	1	0	1	3	4	0	1	0	1	6	9
Kassala	79	8	20	4	10	121	251	14	56	7	39	367	488
North Kordofan	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Northern Darfur	5	1	27	3	7	43	26	3	54	11	22	116	159
Red Sea	14	3	6	1	2	26	25	0	3	1	3	32	58
South Kordofan	60	10	26	12	92	200	190	19	55	12	169	445	645
Southern Darfur	1	2	8	4	3	18	3	2	47	9	3	64	82
Western Darfur	2	1	10	0	0	13	16	0	18	9	5	48	61
Western Kordofan	7	3	2	0	6	18	16	1	2	0	41	60	78
Total	256	31	146	32	154	619	728	60	341	64	337	1530	2149



3. **The Strategy of Victims' Assistance** .Within the framework of coordination and cooperation with UNMAS, other mine action organizations and related governmental entities, the strategy on victims' assistance has been jointly setup yet it was lastly being updated in March 2017 to be valid within the timeframe extends up to 2019. The strategy has been purposely worked out to facilitate the statistical and numerating processes of the victims to which the required assistance to be tailored on concrete platform of reality. Currently the work on bring the strategy up to date is on process through a chain of joint workshops include the civil society organizations, related governmental entities and UNMAS with the aim accommodate the forthcoming challenges and meet obligations associated with the 2nd extension period that will be stretched until 2023. The topics proposed for the discussion in the workshops will be focusing and tackling the following areas;
- a. The upgrade of data collection mechanisms on the victims of mine and ERW.
 - b. To enhance the coverage of the affected areas with medical services as well as to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the provided medical care.
 - c. To enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of services pertinent to psychological rehabilitation.
 - d. To establish a system for psychological and social support in order to ensure full social reintegration.
 - e. To develop and implement economic reintegration projects.
 - f. To enhance the effectiveness of advocacy and empower the legislations and policies which solidify the rights of the persons with disabilities.
 - g. To invest in the capacity-building of civil society organizations particularly those organizations which mainly focus on the advocate of the rights of the victims and persons with disabilities.
4. **The Fund** . Despite the fact that the amount of fund which was specifically allocated for victims assistance is lagging very far behind in comparison to the actuality of the needs, the recent years have been spectacularly witnessed a sizable increment in funds flow denoted by partners and government of Sudan to the mine action program. Victims' assistance program in particular has been privileged with a foreign fund amounted to \$ 346,000 and an equivalent to \$2 million donated by Sudan Government to the humanitarian mine action program in 2018. An equivalent of \$200,000 of the total fund was designated to victims' assistance.
5. **The Mechanism of Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation** . NMAC is the responsible body which mandated by the overseeing, follow up, and coordinating of the Sudan victims' assistance program. The victims' assistance program is being coordinated through the monthly coordination meetings which called upon and organized by NMAC and participated by all victims' concerned bodies such as relevant ministries, National Council for Persons with Disabilities, National Organizations for Prosthetics, Red Cross, UN Agencies and other related National and International Organizations. In addition to the fore-mentioned mechanisms, there is a detailed work plan drafted out for victims' assistance besides, an existence of a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to oversee the implementation of the said work plan. Periodic progress reports from the implementing partners, monthly meetings and field monitoring visits to the projects all were adopted as a part of the monitoring and evaluation tools. Furthermore, there is a coordinative mechanism established between NMAC and National Council for Persons with Disabilities assembled on quarterly basis. NMAC also shouldered the task of the preparation, compilation and submission of victims' assistance annual reports.
6. **State's Contributions to the Victims' Assistance in 2018** . The most striking contributions of the state to the victims' of mine/ERW in 2018 can be better shown as followings;
- a. The endorsement of \$ 2 million for the humanitarian mine action program including victims' assistance.
 - b. The allocation of \$200,000 of the government's fund to the victims' assistance.
 - c. The approval of the strategy on victims' assistance (2018-2019).
 - d. The continuation on developing and building capacity of Al Amal hospital to continue providing medical-care to the war and mine disabled persons and other types of disabilities.
 - e. The attention of the headquarters on its presidential, ministerial council levels and authorities on the level of states and localities. Its presence in all mine action events, field visits, and in accompanying partners and donors to the operational sites. The visits to mines and ERW affected areas in the East of Sudan, Darfur and South Kordofan stand as obvious examples of the state's attention and consideration given to mine action.

- f. Comprehensive cover of the medical treatment's expenses to the casualties of ERW in 2018 from the government's fund.
 - g. The substantial drop which was realized in the number of mine/ERW victims in comparison to the last ten years was chiefly attributed the considerable efforts exerted in clearance of mine and ERW and in mine/ERW awareness in 2018.
 - h. The substantial increment in the size of fund for the victims' assistance was as a result of the fruitful coordination with UNMAS in 2018. The fund received from Japan, United States of America and Italy for victims' assistance was invested as follows;
 - (1) Improvement of economic situation, physical and psychological rehabilitation and social inclusion of 140 of mine/ERW victims in Blue Nile, South Kordofan and Darfur states.
 - (2) Training Workshops in advocacy and raising awareness on the rights of persons with disability convened in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states.
 - (3) The provision of 40 victims with mobility aid and prosthetics.
 - i. In April 2018, a meeting chaired by the Vice President of the Republic was held in the National Council for Persons with Disabilities to deliberate the recommendations issued by the President of the Republic with regard to the persons with disabilities. The following decisions were issued;
 - (1) Enrolment of some ministries and Unions of Work Owner to the membership of the council.
 - (2) The formation of councils of persons with disabilities in the states under the presidency of the state governors.
 - j. The declaration of year 2018 to be observes for disability as follows
 - (1) **In the field of health.** The provision of early medical checkup for disability in hospitals, Obstetrics sections and immunization centres at the states level.
 - (2) **In the field of education.** To establish three governmental public education institutions at each locality and merging the three education terms (preschool, basic and secondary).
 - (3) **In the field of creating friendly environment to the victims.** Prepare and furnish the ministries and governmental institutions in such way that it conveniently accommodates persons with disabilities with consideration to their special needs.
 - (4) **In the field of prosthetics provision services.** Accomplish the establishment of the centers for prosthetics and mobility devices in the rest of the states during the course of 2018.
 - (5) **In the field of livelihood.** Reactivate and resume investigation to ensure the percentage of employment for persons with disabilities is observed and applied in the governmental institutions and in accordance to the Act of Civil Service accredited for the year 2007.
7. **The Commemoration of the Persons with Disabilities International Day.** In December, 3, 2018 the Consultative Council of Human Rights in the Ministry of Judiciary has celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities under the theme; ***The inclusiveness of policies, Equality without Isolation and Enabling without Barriers.*** The celebration was honored by the Attorney of the Ministry of Justice, Secretary-General of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, the Secretary of the Consultative Council of Human Rights, representatives of the related entities and a mass of all categories of persons with disabilities. Whilst the honored attendees delivered speeches that confirmed the importance role of the disabled persons in the community, other speakers numerated the contribution of the state, civil society organizations in the provision of the required services to the disabled persons which function to reinforce the rights of the disabled persons through the laws and legislations and international, regional and local cooperation to ensure the dignity and welfare of the disabled under the shade of equality, social inclusion, access to educational opportunities, facilitation of all difficulties that encounter educational process or training on life skills that enabled the handcuffs access to decent livelihoods.
8. **Country Coordination Forum for Mine Action 2018** . In November 2018 the country coordinative forum for humanitarian mine action was held in the residence of the American Charge' de Affaires as he is being the president of the group of countries which funds Sudan mine action program.43 participants of ambassadors and representatives of Arab and foreign countries were took part in the forum. The forum was also honored by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Defense and UN Resident Coordinator in Sudan. Ones of the most distinguished outcomes of the forum are the followings;
 - a. Focus lights on the magnitude of the mines and ERW problem and the required fund to meet the implementation costs of the mine action activities in the forthcoming period.

- b. Gain the trust of donors and ensure their interaction/response towards the program and reaffirming their pledges to continue flow of fund with the objective to support Sudan to meet its obligations under Ottawa Treaty as well as providing needed services to the victims and reintegrate them in the community.
- c. Project the high level of coordination and cooperation between Sudan and its partners.

9. **The Country's Priorities towards the Persons with Disabilities.** In the beginning of March 2018, the persons with disabilities have been honored by the President of the Republic meanwhile he reaffirmed that the rights of the persons with disabilities are uncompromised and it were further itemized by law, sponsored by the constitution and the state stick to it. His Excellency also said that – when he was addressing the disabled honoring Carnival – all the issues of the disabled are taken into consideration and he further directed the followings;

- a. He directed all the concerned bodies to observe the law to ensure the fulfillment of the rights of persons with disabilities in all walks of life.
- b. He announced the Republic Presidency undertaking the disabled's House rehabilitation task.
- c. Establishment of workshops that make of the disabled persons productive elements and he has also directed the states' governors to allocate a day every three months to probe the issues of the disabled persons and a day each year on the federation level.
- d. Micro Fund Institutions were also directed to give the priority to the persons with disabilities especially with loans that entail no profits.

10. **The Challenges.**

- a. The thinness of fund in comparison to the magnitude of the needs.
- b. The reversed security situation in some parts of South Kordofan and Blue Nile states.
- c. The reporting of new accidents in the affected areas.
- d. The rough routes, vast distances and unfavorable climatic conditions.
- e. The cessation of foreign fund mainstreamed to the victims' assistance in Eastern states of Sudan at the heel of its declaration being freed from the registered mines and ERW.

11. **The Opportunities**

- a. Government fund.
- b. Increment in fund provided by donors for victims' assistance.
- c. Bilateral relationship between NMAC and UNMAS and partners.
- d. Contribution of the national economic institutions and firms to the victims of mines and ERW.
- e. The endorsement of the National Act for persons with disabilities.
- f. The existence of combatant national organizations with potential capacity to bear the responsibility towards the victims of mines and ERW.

12. **Recommendations**

- a. The continuation with the implementation and updating of the strategy set for the victims of mines and ERW within its valid time bound. Enhance/solidify the provision of internal and external fund necessary to implement the activities and meet needs.

- b. Focus to reduce death and casualty caused by the act of mines and ERW accidents through the clearance activities and dissemination of mine/ERW risk awareness among the targeted communities with high potential vulnerability to the threat of mines and ERW. Promote and propagate for the rights of the victims in a broader framework of sponsorship.
- c. Work to embody the principle of coordination with partners and further boost cooperation with UNMAS for further resource mobilization to the victims of mine and ERW.
- d. Reinforcing and ensure sustainability of the psychological nurturing, victims rehabilitation and inclusion in the community.
- e. The continuation with the development of laws and legislations to ensure that it secures the rights of the victims.
- f. The continuation with the development of the adopted data collection and registration systems.
- g. Enhancing the effectiveness of the advocacy in advocating the rights and gains of the disabled and simultaneously raising the awareness of their rights.

13. Conclusion .What have been undertaken so far by the Sudan's humanitarian mine action program towards the victims of mine and ERW is an obligation which acknowledged and adhered by the Government of Sudan and positively responded to it by the civil society organizations. The domain of victims' assistance has witnessed several initiatives motivated by the state interaction with the proposals, programs and requirements of the war, mine and ERW victims aim to improve their economic situation, reintegrate them in their communities with the support of physical and psychological rehabilitation.



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