

***Implementation of Convention on the
Prohibition of the use, Stockpiling,
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel
Mines and on Their Destination
Victim Assistance in Ethiopia***

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Implementation of Convention on the Prohibition of the use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destination (Victim Assistance) in Ethiopia

By Asefa Ashengo

1. Demographic features

One of the powers and duties of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is to Study and ensure the implementation of ways and means for provision of assistance to the aged and the disabled as well as the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. Indeed, the coordination of victim assistance directly falls under its mandate.

According to the report of 1994 National Population and Housing Census, there were 988,849 persons with disabilities. Out of these, the locomotor disabilities rank the leading position followed by partial blindness and deafness 2nd and third respectively. However, there is a claim by the National Associations of persons with disabilities that the above figure underestimates the total number of persons with

different disabilities in the country. Meanwhile, the figure is by far lower than the WHO estimate for prevalence of disability i.e. 10% of any given population.

Among the total disabled population, 83.16% lives in the rural areas while only 16.84% resides in urban centers. This implies that most of the disadvantaged section of the society lives in areas where there are meager rehabilitation services.

2. Laws, Legislations and policies Integrating into the Convention

2.1 Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Proclamation No 1/1995 art.41/5 economic, social and cultural rights States as follows

- The state shall, within available means, allocate resources to provide rehabilitation and assistance to the physically and mentally disabled, the aged, and to children who are left without parents or guardian.

2.2 Developmental Social Welfare Policy issued in November 1996,

Among others, the policy states that:-

- State facilitate ways, means and conditions which will enable persons with disabilities to become full participants and beneficiaries of equal opportunities in the socioeconomic development of the Nation thereby becoming self-supportive and self-reliant members of the society.
- State creates mechanisms by which persons with disabilities will receive appropriate social services, supportive appliances and other rehabilitation services.

2.3 Proclamation No 101/1994 the Right of Disabled Persons to Employment Proclamation

- The proclamation protects the rights of persons with disabilities to compete and be selected for a vacant post in any office and training programme.
- The proclamation further states the posts suitable for persons with disabilities should be identified and reserved from among vacancies created in offices and undertakings.

2.4 National programme of Action Concerning Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities issued in June 1999

- The program of action is prepared on the bases of Developmental Social Welfare Policy and UN Standard Rules for Equalization of Opportunities for persons with Disabilities.

2.7 Continental Plan of Action for the African Decade of Disabilities (1999-2009)

- It's congruent with National Plan Action and focuses on empowerment and equalization of opportunities for people with disabilities.

3. Progress made to promote Victim Assistance

- The government built the capacities of 6 prosthetic-orthoepadic centers (Addis Ababa, Mekele, Harrar, Arba Minich, Dessie & Assela) to expand & strengthen the provision of physical rehabilitation.
- Capacitating 3 prosthetic-orthoepadic workshops (Jigjiga, Awassa & Dire Dawa) with machineries and supply of raw materials.
- Completing Construction of National Rehabilitation Center with the objective of manpower development in prosthetic-orthoepadic and physiotherapy professions and service delivering for referrals at higher level.