



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Presentation by
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Commissioner Disability and Elderly

**Standing Committee Meeting on Victim
Assistance in the context of the AP-MINE
BAN CONVENTION**

25TH – 29TH MAY 2009

1

Introduction

- The Government of the Republic of Uganda ratified the Anti-Personnel Ban Treaty in 1999.
- It also ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities and its Protocol on 25th September, 2008.

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Introduction *Continued*

- These instruments give the Government a legal mandate, structure and direction for all important activities in mine action.
- The Government has also provided conducive policies and legislation that aim at protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs).

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Introduction *Continued*

- The National Policy on Disability provides a broad framework to guide different stakeholders in the implementation of programmes for persons with disabilities including landmine survivors.
- The National Council for Disability was also established to monitor and evaluate the extent to which Government, DPOs, Civil Society Organisations and the private sector meet the needs of PWDs and their planning and service delivery.

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Introduction *Continued*

- To streamline planning and implementation of programmes for Landmine survivors. Government in consultation with various stakeholders developed a Comprehensive Plan on Victim Assistance 2008-2012.
- The plan covers the six thematic areas of victim assistance.

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Introduction *Continued*

- The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development as the lead agency in disability issues is working closely with the office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Health, Education and Sports and DPOs in the implementation of the Mine Action Victim Assistance Project with support from UNDP.

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Data Collection

- The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development in consultation with other stakeholders has developed a tool for data collection. Using this tool, a baseline survey has been conducted in the ERW affected districts.
- The Government is using a number of agencies to generate the required data. The agencies include Local governments, AVSI, Canadian

7

Data Collection *Continued*

Physicians for Aid and Relief-Uganda (CPAR), World Vision International, World Food Programme and Associations of Landmine Survivors.

- The information generated will help in improving service delivery.

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Physical Rehabilitation

- The Ministry of Health established a Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Section.
- The Ministry of Health has six regional orthopaedic workshops spread in different parts of Uganda.

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Physical Rehabilitation *Cont'd*

The Orthopaedic workshops in the mine affected areas receive support from ICRC. These workshops provide prosthetics and orthotics.

The orthopaedic workshops have well trained technicians who ensure that the survivors are fitted with their prostheses.

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Physical Rehabilitation *Cont'd*

- AVSI has also played a big role especially in the northern part of Uganda.
- ICRC has also started supporting orthopaedic workshops in Western Uganda.

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Psychological and peer support

The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development through Community Development Officers at district and sub-county levels is implementing this activity. Other agencies involved include CPAR, World Vision International and Associations of landmine survivors.

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Economic Reintegration

Various Civil Society Organisations including CPAR, World Vision, AVSI and supporting landmine survivors by providing vocational skills in carpentry and joinery, metal fabrication, tailoring, brick making and agriculture. The trainees are provided with relevant toolkits on completion of training. Some of the trained landmine survivors access micro-finance to start income generating activities.

13

Resettlement of landmine survivors

- Resettlement assistance is being provided to landmine survivors ERW survivors and other PWDs.
- The PWDs with support from community members erect walls and Government provides roofing materials.

14

Resettlement of landmine survivors *Continued*

- This support is provided by the office of the Prime Minister.
- Landmine survivors are being mobilised and sensitised to access the Government. Microfinance scheme popularly known as *“Prosperity for all.”*

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Challenges

- Inadequate resources to generate adequate data on landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities.
- Inadequate resources to provide vocational skills training to enable landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities to live an independent life.

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Challenges *Continued*

- Reintegration of landmine survivors and other PWDs is still a problem due to negative attitudes towards them by community leaders.

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Challenges *Continued*

- Long distances to physical rehabilitation services limit access to landmine survivors.
- Some service providers including CSOs have limited understanding on disability issues.

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Proposed interventions to address the challenges 2010 to 2014

- Review the Comprehensive Plan on Victim Assistance to address the changing needs of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities.
- Strengthen collaboration with development partners for increased funding to the Mine Action Victim Assistance Project.

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Proposed interventions*Cont'd*

- Develop a training manual on victim assistance.
- Build the capacity of service providers to effectively implement programmes for landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities.

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Proposed interventions*Cont'd*

- Establish a functional, efficient and comprehensive landmine surveillance system.
- Establish a data base on landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities

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Proposed interventions*Cont'd*

- Strengthen vocational training for landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities.
- Strengthen the referral mechanisms for landmine survivors to improve access to physical rehabilitation.

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Proposed interventions.....

- Expand community based rehabilitation to landmine/ERW affected districts.
- Involvement of landmine survivors and other PWDs in decision making processes at all levels of Local government.

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