

Talking Notes 18 to 20 June 2024 Geneva

Zimbabwe as a State Party to the Convention on the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban and implements Victim Assistance through the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. The Department of Disability Affairs oversees the implementation of victim assistance and its integration in the National Disability Policy (2021). The Department of Disability Affairs has a coordinating role in victim assistance and all programmes related to the welfare and rights of persons with disabilities that are enshrined in the Disabled Persons Act (chapter 17:01) including landmine survivors. This is in line with Action #33 of the Oslo Action Plan.

The Department of Disability Affairs has taken great strides and is working tirelessly towards the provision and welfare of landmine survivors, to note is the establishment of the National Technical Committee which also involves the implementation of Victim Assistance, this means that every sector, health, education, employment, climate change etc, is represented. This fulfills the requirements of Action 34 and sustainable development goals implementation as we move towards vision 2030.

On Action 35, this is still work in progress, the needs assessment programmes also seeks to establish a database of landmine survivors and their families, in collaboration with the private voluntary organisation (Mine victim Assistance of Zimbabwe) there is a database for landmine survivors that have been profiled in Buhera, Mt Darwin, Nyamapanda and Rushinga.

Action 36, Medical health care facilities are still difficult to access but we would like to give gratitude to partners doing mine clearance as they have first aid kits and ambulances that are assisting victims in areas they are operating in.

On Action 37, National referral mechanisms is still work in progress and hopefully the directorate will be in place soon given that there is a technical committee established to deliberate on such issues

Action 38, This is being accomplished through the needs assessment programmes where services are being brought to land mine survivors even in rural areas. The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare has got district offices closer to the people and they have been

working on landmine victim identification when they visit the communities.

On Action 39, Land mine survivors are being included in all the social protection programmes under the Ministry of Public Service, labour and Social Welfare, they receive Assisted Medical Treatment Orders (AMTOs) for their healthcare and also benefit from grain from the FDMS (Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy) programme and some of their children are supported with educational assistance called Beam (basic educational Assistance module), this improves their overall well-being.

The Civil Protection Unit in Zimbabwe under the Ministry of Local Government and Public works coordinates the implementation of disaster risk preparedness and plans and also prioritises vulnerable groups like the elderly, children and persons with disabilities. The Ministry is also represented in all the committee's from District to National level, Action 40.

Action 41, Zimbabwe has registered and accredited an organisation (Mine victims Assistance of Zimbabwe) on Victim Assistance in March 2023 under the Private Voluntary Organisations Act (Chapter 17:05). This will ensure effective and meaningful participation of land mine survivors in issues that concern them. The organisation works in partnership with the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare.

On the 11th of April 2024, the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Mine victim assistance Zimbabwe (MVAZ) participated in the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action in Harare, through a March, exhibition of material and was organised by Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC). The Landmine victims also attended and gave their testimonies of how they were injured by landmines and also cited their plights.

On the 11th of May 2024, MVAZ conducted a baseline mine victim field visit in Rushinga District (Mashonaland Central Province). They managed to conduct a needs assessment exercise and compile statistics, the landmine victims were issued with assistive devices (crutches) donated to MVAZ by the Minister of Defence Honourable Minister OCZ Muchinguri - Kashiri. Explosive Ordinance Risk Education (EORE) was done and awareness was given to landmine victims on the dangers of landmines to human beings and animals and their negative impact to National development. Landmine victims were issued with basic commodities for their welfare inclusive of their families.

Challenges

The absence of a biometric database disaggregated by age, gender and location has compromised quality of service provision specific to landmine victims. It is impossible to come up with needs-based interventions where there is no specific data. However, the department will continue to lobby for resources to conduct a disability survey which will address the issues of statistics as landmine survivors are also included. In the meantime, scaling up of the needs assessment activities will go a long way in providing statistics and information on the living conditions of landmine survivors.

Location of medical facilities remains a hindrance in responding to emergencies and access to medical services particularly for landmine victims. Most landmine infested areas are located in hard-to-reach remote areas of the country. However, Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC) and other development partners doing mine clearance are providing transport support to ferry landmine survivors to nearby medical facilities in areas they are working on.

Landmine survivors need assistive devices and this is an additional challenge due to lack of funds.

Conclusion

The information from needs assessment activities will contribute to appropriate needs-based interventions which will then allow the effective implementation of victim assistance. Through the implementation of the National Disability Policy (2021), Zimbabwe remains committed to providing appropriate, affordable and accessible services to mine survivors and their families so that they operate on an equal basis with others. It is also anticipated that the needs assessment exercise will be expanded to cover all the affected areas in Zimbabwe. The exercise will assist in coming up with national statistics on land mine victims and survivors across the whole nation and their specific unique needs.



**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional meeting
and the First Preparatory Meeting for the Fifth Review Conference**

**18-20 June 2024
Geneva, Switzerland**

**Dr. Christine Peta
Director, Disability Affairs**



Presentation outline

VICTIM ASSISTANCE UPDATE (ZIMBABWE)

THE MAIN CHALLENGES THAT REMAIN TO BE ADDRESSED AND THE
OBSTACLES TO OVERCOMING THESE CHALLENGES



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In conclusion, The information from needs assessment activities will contribute to appropriate needs-based interventions which will then allow the effective implementation of victim assistance. Through the implementation of the National Disability Policy (2021), Zimbabwe remains committed to providing appropriate, affordable and accessible services to mine survivors and their families so that they operate on an equal basis with others. It is also anticipated that the needs assessment exercise will be expanded to cover all the affected areas in Zimbabwe. The exercise will assist in coming up with national statistics on land mine victims and survivors across the whole nation and their specific unique needs.

Thank you

