

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

### COLOMBIA

#### STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – VICTIM ASSISTANCE

##### COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Burkina Faso, the Netherlands, Slovenia (Chair) and Zambia)

Intersessional Meetings

18-20 June 2024

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Colombia of updated information on its victim assistance activities.
2. Based on the information provided in Colombia's Article 7 report as well as additional information provided in 2023 in response to Committee's observations, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

##### Mine casualties

3. Colombia reported 98 casualties in 2023, a decrease to 135 in 2022 and 152 casualties reported in 2021, of which 7 persons were killed and 91 persons were injured. Colombia reported that the total number of all registered victims of anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnances (UXO) increased to 12,405. Colombia provided information on mine victims disaggregated by gender, age, disability, status, ethnicity.
4. The Committee would welcome further information on identification and registration of indirect victims, such as affected families.

##### VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACTIONS:

##### **Strengthen partnerships and integrate victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks and designation of a government entity to oversee the (Action #33 and also Actions #1 and #6)**

5. Colombia reported that the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace and through its national mine action centre (known in Spanish as AICMA) is responsible for planning and implementation of processes and procedures to ensure the implementation of victim assistance, in line with the Victims Law.
6. Colombia reported that the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MOHSP) leads efforts on the implementation of the "La Ruta de Atención Integral en Salud a Víctimas de MAP -MUSE" or "Comprehensive Roadmap for Assistance of Victims of Anti-Personnel Mines and Unexploded Ordnances (UXO)", a national action plan/referral mechanism on victim assistance (also known as "La Ruta" in Spanish).
7. The Committee would welcome information on victim assistance expert/focal point of Colombia to ensure participation in victim assistance experts events.

##### **Develop and implement measurable, realistic and time-bound national action plan (Action #33 and also Action #2)**

8. Colombia reported on implementation of La Ruta that has been in place since 2007 and the Comprehensive Health Care and Functional Rehabilitation Roadmap for mine and UXO victims that has been in place since 2016, these plans that are developed in accordance with the Law 1448, aim to ensure provision of comprehensive assistance to victims. La Ruta include five levels of interventions, as follows:

- pre-hospital care;
- emergency care;
- hospital care;
- functional rehabilitation; and
- comprehensive rehabilitation.

9. Colombia reported integration of victim assistance into various national plans and frameworks including a Health Plan 2012 / 2031 and Public Policy for Comprehensive Health Care – PAIS, Operational Plan for Humanitarian Demining 2023-2025 and Humanitarian Response Plan 2023.

**Removing barriers including physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal and communication barriers to access such services (Action #33)**

10. Colombia reported progress on various levels of policy and programmes in association with the implementation of the Law 1448 and other legal frameworks related to healthcare, disability and social affairs that contribute to lifting physical, social and other kinds of obstacles that may hinder participation and inclusion by mine victims.

11. Colombia reported that new healthcare centres including primary healthcare centres that will be constructed by the government will be accessible to persons with disabilities including mine survivors.

**Applying multi-sectoral efforts to ensure that the needs and rights of mine victims are effectively addressed in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Action #34)**

12. Colombia reported taking a multi-sectoral approach to integrate victim assistance into broader frameworks in collaboration with various ministries, national agencies and stakeholders, in accordance with Law 1448 and the decree 1784 of 2019.

13. Colombia reported that victim assistance activities were carried out in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and in accordance with multiple national legislations in place.

14. Colombia reported that in 2023 further efforts were made, including through the Law 2297 of 2023, to establish a mechanism for support to caregivers, including by developing criteria for identification of caregivers and registering them with the MOHSP.

**Establish or strengthen of a centralised database / national information management system (Action #35 and also Action #9)**

15. Colombia reported that various measures are in place to collect, analyse, share and follow up on victims data. Colombia reported that information on civilian mine victims was registered in the Anti-personnel Mine Survivors Information Service (SISMAP), and it seeks to streamline and provide transparency to the process of registration, characterization and monitoring of victim assistance. Colombia also reported on the availability of a Comprehensive Social Protection Information System – SISPRO, a database used by the Health and Social Protection Sector at the MOHSP.

16. Colombia also reported that data on mine victims are published online.

#### **Access to first aid and ongoing emergency medical care (Action #36)**

17. Colombia reported that first aid is available in mine affected communities and that the MOHSP provides comprehensive healthcare to the victims in accordance with their Health Plan 2012/2031 and Public Policy for Comprehensive Health Care – PAIS. Colombia had reported that measures were put into place to ensure the safety of minor victims, such as supporting their guardian/accompany throughout the healthcare, rehabilitation and recovery processes. Colombia also reported that AICMA has been working to ensure provision of pre-hospital care and ongoing healthcare to victims through a multisectoral approach as per La Ruta.

#### **Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)**

18. Colombia reported that AICMA on development of a directory of services, that will include services provided by various actors to assist with implementation of victim assistance.

19. Colombia reported that the MOHSP refers victims to healthcare services available and that MOHSP also monitors the provision of such services according to the requirements set by the Ministry. Colombia had reported that a referral mechanism was developed within the General System of Social Security in Health (SGSSS) and referrals were also made by the regulatory centre for emergencies of each department.

#### **Access to rehabilitation services including physiotherapy, assistive devices and occupational therapy (Action #38)**

20. Colombia reported that comprehensive functional rehabilitation is available and provided to victims in accordance with Resolutions 2366 of 2023, 2481 of 2020 and the Statutory Laws 1751 of 2015 and 1618 of 2013 which regulates the fundamental right to healthcare and rehabilitation. Colombia reported that rehabilitation is implemented through La Ruta and under the lead of the MOHSP. Colombia reported that in addition, provision of assistive technology is enforced through the following resolutions:

- 4396 of 2008 and 5491 of 2017 on hearing devices;
- 2968 of 2015 on orthopaedic technology; and
- 214 of 2022 ophthalmic lenses and ocular prostheses.

21. Colombia reported implementing Community Based Rehabilitation as part of its public healthcare and that rehabilitation in general, and assistive products in particular are tailored to the needs of everyone in need of such as assistive devices, in accordance with national regulations and policies put in place in this regard.

22. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Colombia reported that the MOHSP was working on a mechanism to improve tariff conditions in favour of imported assistive devices.

23. The Committee would welcome information on progress made concerning improvement in tariff condition in favour of assistive products.

#### **Access to psychological and psychosocial services including peer-to-peer support (Action #38)**

24. Colombia reported that psychosocial support is made available as an integral part of comprehensive healthcare to mine victims and affected families and that progress made in 2023 including in areas of policy and implementation support mechanisms.

25. Colombia reported that psychosocial support to mine survivors and affected families is provided through the Program of Psychosocial Care and Comprehensive Health for Victims (known in Spanish as PAPSIVI) in each territory and that the programme contains, as a set of interdisciplinary activities, procedures and interventions to provide comprehensive health care and psychosocial care, designed and implemented by the MOHSP. Colombia reported that in 2023, PAPSIVI has made progress in reaching out and assisting victims, in line with decree 1650 of 2022.

26. The Committee would welcome further information on availability of peer-to-peer support and its integration into health systems.

#### **Access to social and economic inclusion services, including in rural and remote areas (Action #39)**

27. Colombia reported that in 2023 six survivors' associations from different regions were provided with USD 240,711 to carry out risk education, this effort in addition to making significant progress in risk education, led to capacity building of survivors' associations and shifted them from passive receivers of assistance to active players.

28. Colombia reported that in 2023 the government assisted the national federation of survivors' associations, whose represented participated and contributed to the discussion on victim assistance at the Third Global Conference on Victim Assistance took place in October 2023 in Cambodia.

#### **Taking measure for safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies (Action #40)**

29. The Committee recalls that Colombia had reported that the Ministry of National Education promoted the strategy of risk management and education in situations of emergencies with the aim to strengthen capacities of certified territorial entities to prevent threats, risks with regards to safety and protection of students.

30. Colombia also reported that through provision of risk education safety and protection of mine survivors and other community members are improved.

#### **Strengthening inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in all matters that affect them (Action #41 and also Action #4)**

31. Colombia reported that in accordance with Law 1448 and resolutions 0677 the government established mechanisms to support and create opportunities to survivors and their representative organisations to actively participate in mine action activities, including by providing funding for projects to conduct risk education.

#### **CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS:**

#### **Demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including [...] by making financial and other commitments to implementation (Action #1)**

32. Colombia also reported on several policy developments including the Law 2297 of 2023, to establish a mechanism for support to caregivers, through which affected family members of mine victims will receive support.

33. Colombia reported that the national mine action programme received a total of USD 1,566,178 through national budget of the government for risk education, victim assistance and national

capacity building. Colombia reported on allocation of financial resources (USD 240,711) to local representative associations of survivors to deliver risk educations in affected communities.

**Ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered (Action #3)**

34. Colombia reported that, in accordance with the Law 1448, gender and diversity have been considered in relevant activities, to ensure age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and disabilities of the victims are considered in relevant policies and programmes.

**Challenges in implementation of Victim Assistance Commitments (Action #8)**

35. The Committee would welcome information on challenges faced to meet the rights and needs of mine victims, in particular in rural and remote areas, and how the international community, including the Committee on Victim Assistance can assist Colombia to fulfil its victim assistance obligations under the Convention and the OAP.

**The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker**  
**Victim Assistance**  
**Colombia**

Actions	Indicators						Additional information request by the Committee
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
#33	# States Parties that have designated a government entity to coordinate victim assistance activities						The Committee would welcome information on victim assistance expert/focal point of Colombia to ensure participation in victim assistance experts events.
	# States Parties that have national action plans in place containing specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound objectives and related indicators						
#34	# States Parties that report that they include mine victims in relevant national policy and support frameworks						
#35	# States Parties that include victims of anti-personnel mines in disability data systems						The Committee would welcome further information on identification and registration of indirect victims, such as affected families.
	# States Parties that disaggregate victim data by gender, age and disability						
#36	# States Parties reporting on efforts to ensure an efficient and effective emergency response to mine accidents						
#37	# States Parties that report having a national referral mechanism						
	# States Parties that report having a directory of services in place						
#38	# States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability and accessibility of comprehensive rehabilitation services						The Committee recalls that in 2020 Colombia reported that the MOHSP was working on a mechanism to improve tariff conditions in favour of assistive devices that Colombia imports. The Committee would welcome information on progress made concerning improvement in tariff condition in favour of assistive products.
	# States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability of psychological and psychosocial support services						
	# States Parties that have established peer-to-peer services within their national healthcare system						The Committee would welcome further information on availability of peer-to-peer support and its integration into health systems.
#39	# States Parties reporting on efforts to remove barriers to the social and economic inclusion of mine victims						
#40	# States Parties that report integrating protection of mine survivors in their humanitarian response and preparedness plans						
#41	# States Parties that report that they include victim representatives or their organizations in victim assistance planning at the national and local level						

**CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS**

#1	# States Parties that report, having included Convention implementation activities in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, where appropriate						
	% mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention						
#3	# mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
#8	# States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting						
	# States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings						The Committee would welcome information on challenges faced to meet the rights and needs of mine victims, in particular in rural and remote areas, and how the international community, including the Committee on Victim Assistance can assist Colombia to fulfil its victim assistance obligations under the Convention and the OAP.