

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

ETHIOPIA

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 Ethiopia of updated information on its victim assistance activities.
2. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

Mine casualties

3. Ethiopia reported 1,500 including 201 women, 923 men, 91 boys and 285 girls. Ethiopia reported no new casualties in 2023. Ethiopia also reported, through its Victim Assistance update, 1,131 casualties during the period of 1999 until 2019, with 40% children and 13% women.
4. The Committee observed a discrepancy between the casualty data provided by Ethiopia in its reports in 2024 and a significant difference between data provided in 2024 and casualty data provided by Ethiopia in 2019 which had indicated over 16,000 casualties¹. The Committee would welcome further information and clarification in this regard.

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 integration (Actions #1, #6 and #33)

5. Ethiopia reported that the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MOWSA) has established a national committee comprising of various ministries, agencies and organisations of persons with disabilities and other relevant institutions to coordinate, monitor and follow up activities related to disabilities, the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) including victim assistance activities.

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

6. Ethiopia reported implementing the Ethiopian Disability Action Plan (2024-2033) and a National Victim Assistance Strategy (2016-2020). Ethiopia reported that the National Victim Assistance

¹ 4RC Ethiopia Extension Request (p.15): "In the period 2002 - 2004 the land impact survey the victims of mine accidents are 1,295 people were Mine incidents killed 588 people in the time preceding the survey and injured 737 persons. The survey found a further 15,321 victims before 2002. Of the total 1,492 impacted communities, 1,079 reported incidents at some time in the past with 338 communities reporting specific victims in the 24 months prior to the survey. Young adult males were the primary victims. Eighty two percent of all victims were male and 40% of all victims were between the ages of 15 and 29. The next largest age groups were children between the ages of 5 and 14 years that is 60%. Two-thirds of victims were engaged in herding and farming at the time of the incident. "

Strategy outlines the vision, goals, objectives and activities for the provision of comprehensive and integrated assistance to the victims, based on their needs and rights. The strategy also identifies the roles and responsibilities of the relevant stakeholders, such as the government, the UN agencies, the ICRC, NGOs, representative organizations of persons with disabilities and the private sector.

7. The Committee would welcome further information on validity of the Victim Assistance Strategy and plans to renew it. The Committee would also welcome a copy of the Strategy.

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

8. The Committee would welcome further information on progress made to lift barriers.

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)

9. Ethiopia reported on the existence of several national laws and policies related to the rights, needs and wellbeing of persons with disabilities [including mine survivors], such as:

- The Constitution.
- The Proclamation concerning the Rights to Employment for Persons with Disabilities, prohibiting any form of discrimination against persons with disabilities in employment.
- The Federal Civil Servant Proclamation which provides for special preference in the recruitment, promotion and deployment of qualified candidates with disabilities in government offices.
- The Social Protection Policy which aims to reduce poverty, inequality and vulnerability among the population, especially the poor and marginalized groups, such as persons with disabilities.
- A directive that allows persons with disabilities to import duty free vehicles.
- The Psychosocial Rehabilitation Guideline, developed by the Ministry of women and social affairs, which provides guidance on the assessment, and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities with psychosocial needs.

10. Ethiopia also reported that MOWSA has been working on the Ethiopian Disability Act, Ethiopian Disability Action Plan (2024-2033) to enhance the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities. The bill was being prepared by the MOWSA, in consultation with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and other stakeholders, to harmonize existing national laws and policies on disabilities with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

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

11. The Committee would welcome information on availability of a centralised data base, which includes or has the capacity to include data on mine victims.

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

12. Ethiopia reported improvements in availability of and accessibility to medical care and physical rehabilitation services for victims, especially in remote and rural areas, including by enhanced capacity of healthcare facilities, rehabilitation centres, prosthetic and orthotic workshops and mobile outreach teams. Ethiopia also reported that 195 mine victims have received medical care, including reconstructive surgery and wound care.

13. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Ethiopia reported that healthcare centres are available in every locality and where such services are not available, services are provided by ambulance, helicopter or local transport to support injured persons, including those injured by mines.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

14. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Ethiopia reported that a national directory of all relevant services was being developed in 2019 and that referral systems have been in place.

15. The Committee would welcome an update on progress made in developing a national director of services.

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

16. Ethiopia reported on availability of physical rehabilitation services through 21 centres across the country, benefited 44,236 persons with disabilities including mine survivors. The services included provision of assistive devices, prosthetics, orthotics, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, counselling, and referral services.

17. Ethiopia reported that over 2,000 assistive devices were provided to persons with disabilities in 2022-2023 and 600 persons with disabilities in Afar region which is affected by explosives ordnances were provided with physical rehabilitation services.

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

18. Ethiopia also reported that the MOWSA has developed a psychosocial and social rehabilitation manual for physical rehabilitation centres to improve the quality and standards of the respective services.

19. Ethiopia reported that 950 victims were provided with mental health and psychosocial support through peer-to-peer counselling and consultations.

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

20. Ethiopia reported progress in availability and delivery of services enabling social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities including mine victims. Progresses include the followings:

- 37,069 persons with disabilities were provided with entrepreneurship and job creation trainings to increase skills for employment;
- Support provided, include vocational technical trainings, business development services, microfinance and cooperative trainings, designed to assist job placements in public and private sectors;
- 406,952 students with disabilities, including 181,280 female students, have been enrolled into pre-primary, primary and secondary schools; and
- 4,585 persons with disabilities including 2,908 male and 1,877 female, were active as civil servants in 2022-2023.

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

21. The Committee would welcome information on national measures for safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies.

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

22. Ethiopia reported that persons with disabilities including mine survivors and their representative organisations have been included in relevant events, policies and programmes, including a national committee that is mandated to coordinate the CRPD implementation.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

23. Ethiopia reported progress that demonstrate national ownerships including by undertaking major steps in strengthening legal frameworks on disability rights in an inclusive manner.

24. The Committee would welcome information on allocation of financial resources on implementation and integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks.

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

25. Ethiopia reported efforts to ensure non-discrimination, accessibility, reasonable accommodation and participation and provided some information disaggregated by gender and age but recognises lack of disaggregated data as one the challenges hindering efforts.

Challenges in implementation of Victim assistance Commitments (Action #8)

26. Ethiopia reported challenges such as lack of reliable and disaggregated data on persons with disabilities and mine victims, negative perception towards persons with disabilities, limited access to services including due to affordability and constraints in national resources and capacity to implement and monitor respective laws and plans.

27. The Committee would welcome information on how the international community including the Committee on Victim Assistance can assist Ethiopia to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Victim Assistance
Ethiopia

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information request by the Committee
#33	# States Parties that have designated a government entity to coordinate victim assistance activities						
	# States Parties that have national action plans in place containing specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound objectives and related indicators						The Committee would welcome further information on validity of the Victim Assistance Strategy and plans to renew it. The Committee would also welcome a copy of the Strategy. The Committee would welcome further information on progress made to lift barriers.
#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 information on existence of a centralised data base, which includes or has the capacity to include data on mine victims.
	# States Parties that disaggregate victim data by gender, age and disability						The Committee observed a discrepancy between the casualty data provided by Ethiopia in its reports in 2024 and a significant difference between data provided in 2024 and casualty data provided by Ethiopia in 2019 which had indicated over 16,000 casualties ² . The Committee would welcome further information and clarification in this regard.
#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						The Committee would welcome an update on progress made in developing a national director of services.
#38	# States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability and accessibility of comprehensive rehabilitation services						
	# 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						

² 4RC Ethiopia Extension Request (p.15): “In the period 2002 - 2004 the land impact survey the victims of mine accidents are 1,295 people were Mine incidents killed 588 people in the time preceding the survey and injured 737 persons. The survey found a further 15,321 victims before 2002. Of the total 1,492 impacted communities, 1,079 reported incidents at some time in the past with 338 communities reporting specific victims in the 24 months prior to the survey. Young adult males were the primary victims. Eighty two percent of all victims were male and 40% of all victims were between the ages of 15 and 29. The next largest age groups were children between the ages of 5 and 14 years that is 60%. Two-thirds of victims were engaged in herding and farming at the time of the incident. “

#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						The Committee would welcome information on national measures for safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies.
#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 how the international community including the Committee on Victim Assistance can assist Ethiopia to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

