

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

NICARAGUA

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 Nicaragua of updated information on its victim assistance activities.
2. Based on the information provided in Nicaragua'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. Nicaragua reported a total of 1,276 mine victims. Nicaragua also reported that no casualty due to explosive devices was recorded from April 2010 until December 2023.
4. Nicaragua reported that as of 2023 a total of 190,253 persons with disabilities were registered which includes the 1,276 mine survivors.
5. The Committee would welcome further disaggregated information on age, gender, and disability of the 1,276 mine victims, and information on indirect victims, such as families affected by mines.

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 (Action #33 and Actions #1 and #6)

6. Nicaragua reported that the National Council for the Promotion and Enforcement of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the National Council) has been the entity responsible for the implementation of the Law 763 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Under the leadership of the Minister of the Ministry of Health, the Council includes 17 public institutions, federation of associations of persons with disabilities and a representative of parents of children with disabilities.
7. The Committee would also welcome information on inclusion of mine survivors and/or their representative organisations in the National Council.
8. The Committee would welcome further information the roles of the National Council concerning the integration of mine victims into broader national policies and programmes.

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

9. Nicaragua reported implementing the 2022-2026 National Human Development Plan and that the Nation Plan is comprehensive in addressing poverty, inequality and promoting the rights of general

population, including victims of the war and their families. In 2023, Nicaragua reported that the National Plan integrates the needs of mine victims.

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

10. Nicaragua reported that the National Human Development Plan promotes inclusive, equitable and quality education as well as expansion of healthcare services to remote areas including through mobile clinics. In 2023, Nicaragua reported that the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructures and Municipalities work to eliminate physical/architectural barriers in hospitals and other public places and that about 90% of hospitals/health care centres have been made accessible.

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)

11. Nicaragua reporting applying multi-sectoral efforts including through the National Council and through the National Human Development Plan, both of which taking an inclusive approach. In 2023, Nicaragua reported that national efforts are aligned with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

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

12. Nicaragua reported that the Ministry of Health implements a national database on health that maintains data related to healthcare and another database exists under the “Todos Con Voz” programme that register persons with disabilities, which has registered a total of 190,253 persons with disabilities as of 2023.

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

13. Nicaragua reported availability of public healthcare including first aid. Nicaragua also reported provision of social benefits such as subsidies on basic healthcare services, access to recreation centres free of charge to those persons with disabilities holding recognition cards.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

14. Nicaragua reported having a referral mechanism within healthcare systems, and that the Ministry of Health work in coordination with Nicaraguan Army and Social Security Institute (INSS) to ensure provision of healthcare services to persons with disabilities including mine victims.

15. The Committee welcomes Nicaragua to provide information on availability directory of services to facilitate mine victims' access to services for mine victims.

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

16. Nicaragua reported that the Ministry of Health continued providing rehabilitation services through the followings:

- Rehabilitation services, located in the Departmental capitals.
- Physiotherapy Units, located in the Municipal Health Centres.

- The Aldo Chavarría National Rehabilitation School Hospital.
- National Centre for Audiology and Speech Therapy located at the Aldo Chavarría Rehabilitation Hospital.
- The Antonio Lenin Fonseca School Hospital.
- The Jose Dolores Fletes Psychosocial Hospital and in the departmental hospitals, specialised in provision of psychiatric care.
- Orthotics and Prosthetics Centres, located in Managua, Estelí, and Puerto Cabezas.
- The Nicaraguan health system has eight audiological units, located in the departments of Managua, León, Matagalpa, Estelí, Chontales, Jinotega, Bluefields and Masaya.

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

17. Nicaragua reported availability of psychological support through Psychosocial Care Centres (CAPS), available in 19 local healthcare centres. In 2023, Nicaragua reported that CAPS included 14 psychosocial care centres nationwide and 94 houses for people with special needs, equipped with the necessary tools to provide personalised rehabilitations.

18. The Committee would welcome further information on availability of peer-to-peer support to mine victims and persons with disabilities.

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

19. Nicaragua reported in 2023 through the "Todos Con Voz" programme 178,523 persons with disabilities were certified and provided with recognition card, which allowed them to benefit from healthcare and other basic services and that will improve quality of life among persons with disabilities. Nicaragua reported that, in compliance with the National Human Development Plan and its guidelines to eradicate poverty and inequality, it has promoted policies to eliminate all kinds of physical, social, cultural, economic, political, and other barriers to guarantee the reintegration of mine survivors into society.

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

20. In 2023, Nicaragua reported that the national authority for the prevention and mitigation of disasters (SINAPRED) has been actively working to ensure the safety and protection of the population including persons with disabilities in situation of disasters. As part of national measures in this regard, a guide has been developed to ensure participation of persons with disabilities in planning at community and local levels and another guide for preparation of family response in situations of emergency.

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

21. Nicaragua reported that persons with disabilities and their representative federation are included in the National Council, and that other measures have been developed in the framework of the Law 763 ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities, including victims.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

22. Nicaragua reported allocation of national fundings to persons with disabilities channelled through various agencies including ministry of health, social security institute and provision of funding to associations of persons with disabilities.

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

23. Nicaragua reported that gender and diversity are considered in all relevant national plans and programmes, including the needs of women, girls, boys, men, and Indigenous communities.

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

24. The Committee would welcome information on challenges encountered in victim assistance in Nicaragua and information on how the international community including the Committee on Victim Assistance can assist Nicaragua to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Victim Assistance
Nicaragua

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						The Committee would welcome further information on the roles of the National Council concerning the integration of mine victims into broader national policies and programmes.
	# 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 disaggregated information on age, gender, and disability of the 1,276 mine victims, and information on indirect victims, such as families affected by mines.
	# 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						The Committee welcomes information on availability of a comprehensive directory of services to facilitate mine victims' access to services for mine victims.
	# 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						
	# 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.
#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						The Committee would also welcome information on inclusion of mine survivors and/or their representative organisations in the National Council.
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 encountered in victim assistance in Nicaragua and information on how the international community including the Committee on Victim Assistance can assist Nicaragua to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

