

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – SUDAN

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Italy, Chile, Sweden and Thailand)

Intersessional Meetings

30 June – 2 July 2020

Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Sudan

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Sudan of updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

Mine casualties in 2019

2. The Committee observed that Sudan reported 30 casualties, including 24 children (3 boys and 2 girls killed, and 14 boys and 5 girls injured) and 6 men (1 man killed, and 5 men injured) in Blue Nile, South Kordofan, Central and North Darfur states. This demonstrates a decrease to 40 casualties reported in the previous year. Sudan also reported that between 2002 to end of 2019, a total of 2,171 victims, including 1,548 injured and 623 killed, have been registered. The Committee appreciates Sudan's in providing all the casualties data with disaggregated information by gender and age.

Establish or strengthen of a centralised database (Action #35)

3. The Committee observed that Sudan reported having a centralised database on disabilities under the Supreme Council of Persons with Disabilities where information on every person with disabilities in the country made available, including information on their living conditions. Sudan reported that in addition, the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) collects and maintains statistics on mine victims through its Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database.
4. The Committee would welcome further information on integration of data collected by NMAC on mine survivors into the centralised database of the Supreme Council of Persons with Disabilities.

Integrating victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks and designation of a government entity to oversee the integration (Action #33)

5. The Committee observed that Sudan reported that NMAC leads victims assistance activities and in coordination with agencies such as the National Council of Persons with Disabilities, National Prosthetic Centres, the Red Cross, UN agencies and other national and international stakeholders. The Committee would welcome further information on involvement of relevant ministries, such as Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Social Welfare in victim assistance related policies and programmes.

Developing and implementing measurable, realistic and time-bound national action plan (Action #33)

6. The Committee observed that Sudan has reported implementing a national plan of action on victim assistance that included all the six components of victim assistance. Sudan reported that in 2019 NMAC allocated \$220,000 of the government funds to victim assistance and risk education efforts

and a total of \$544,000 funds was provided by Japan, Italy and DFID for Sudan's victim assistance activities in 2019. Sudan has also indicated interests to the Committee in receiving support for developing a new inclusive action plan in 2020. The Committee would encourage inclusion of gender and diversity and allocation of resources in the new victim disability/victim assistance action plan.

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

7. The Committee observed that Sudan reported that accessibility of public services is regulated by different legislations and regulations, such as:
 - a) a building construction code which ensures buildings are constructed accessible for the use of persons with disabilities, including by installing sliding doors, ramps, elevators, etc; and
 - b) a national standard for physical accessibility of means of transportations.
8. The Committee would welcome further information on efforts to address other physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal and communication barriers that may hinder inclusion and participation of mine survivors and persons with disabilities in Sudan.

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. The Committee observed that Sudan reported that there are cross-governmental efforts to ensure that the needs and rights of mine survivors are effectively addressed and that they are carried out in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Committee would welcome further information on mechanisms which provides the platform for different sectors/institutions such as ministries responsible for health, social affairs, labour, education, human rights, disability rights, development, disaster management to play a part in victim assistance and information on mechanisms in place to measure and coordinate such a multi-sectoral approaches.

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

10. The Committee observed that Sudan reported that limited first aid is available however they are located far from some of the mine contaminated areas, such as South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. Sudan reported that although first aid activities are mainstreamed into public policies and planning, there is still a need for specific support in terms of medication and equipment in order to ensure first response is provided in an effective and efficient manner. Sudan also reported that mine action operators contribute, in according to their protocols, with local hospitals/healthcare centres, to ensure the availability of trauma care in mine/ERW affected areas.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

11. The Committee observed that Sudan reported that a national referral mechanism has been in place and a national directory of services to be developed by the Ministry of Health, Supreme Council for Disabled Persons and Prosthetic Centre in coordination with NMAC.

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

12. The Committee observed that Sudan reported the availability of physical rehabilitation services, provided through the Ministry of Social Welfare. Sudan reported that survivors in remote and affected areas often move to big cities, where they can access rehabilitation services. The Committee would welcome further information on provision of occupational therapy and information on the number of mine survivors (men, women, boys and girls) that have benefited from various types of rehabilitation services in 2019.

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

13. The Committee observed that Sudan reported that provision of psychological supports to persons with disabilities including to mine/ERW victims comes under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health. The Committee would welcome additional information on progress achieved in providing or strengthening peer to peer support in 2019, and information on the number of mine victims that have been benefited from psychological and psychosocial supports in 2019.

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

14. The Committee observed that Sudan reported that social and economic services are available to mine victims, and that in 2019 as a result of four victim assistance projects implemented by NGOs in the North, South and East Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, with support of Italy, Japan and USAID, the followings were achieved:

- a) 220 persons were provided with medical screening, socio-economic inclusion and psychosocial support;
- b) 80 persons were provided with assistive devices;
- c) 30 victims were resurveyed to verify and update the database; and
- d) four workshops were conducted to raise awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities.

15. The Committee would welcome further information on social and economic services available to mine survivors and persons with disabilities through relevant ministries and other national stakeholders in Sudan. The Committee would also welcome additional information on inclusion of the needs and rights of mine victims in national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Sudan.

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

16. The Committee observed that Sudan reported that there a national disaster management policy in place and it includes the needs of persons with disabilities including mine survivors. The Committee would welcome further information on the special measures included in Sudan's national disaster management policy on safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risk and emergencies, such as COVID-19 pandemic.

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

17. The Committee observed that Sudan reported that persons with disabilities including mine survivors are included in relevant national policies, plans and programmes and that their representatives would need invitation to participation in the Convention's meetings. The Committee would welcome further information on efforts made to strengthen inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in 2019.

Challenges in implementation of Sudan's Victim Assistance Commitments

18. The Committee observed that Sudan reported the following remaining challenges in its victim assistance activities:

- a) difficulty to reach out to mine victims in remote areas due to long distance, difficult terrain, movements of mine victims, and scarcity in resources;
- b) shortages of first aid professionals;
- c) challenges in the implementation of accessibility related regulations and standards;
- d) lack of psychological or psychosocial support in remote or unsafe areas; and
- e) shortages in certified rehabilitation professionals, such as physiotherapists, prosthetic and orthotic technicians, occupational therapists and audiologists.

19. The Committee would welcome additional information on key remaining challenges in victim assistance and any specific proposal Sudan may have on how the Committee and the international community could be of further support to Sudan's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance obligations.