



Government of Zimbabwe

**VICTIM ASSISTANCE EXPERT
MEETING NOVEMBER 2022**



Zimbabwe and Victim Assistance

- Zimbabwe is a signatory to the 1997 Anti- Personnel Mine Ban Convention which was ratified on 18 June 1998, and became in force on 1 March 1999.
- Zimbabwe is also a signatory to the United Nations Conventions on the rights of Persons with Disabilities, (UNCRPD) which provides an overarching framework for implementing victim assistance with regards to survivors.
- As such disability rights are also realized through the implementation of victim assistance.



Rehabilitation Interventions

- Components of medical (assistive technologies, physiotherapy, and other) through government and private run medical centers like Ruwa national Rehabilitation Centre,
- Aspects of Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)- these are undertaken usually at inception as a mode for adaptation to the new situation- with support from occupational therapist
- Community based rehabilitation where issues of community based inclusive rehabilitation are key- these include community sensitization activities on disability and mobilizing mine victims and persons with disabilities in participating in sustainable livelihood projects for example in Mangwe a total of 15 persons with Disability benefited under Mambele Project and projects are being scaled up to other districts



Rehabilitation

- Psychosocial support is also another component where victims are organized in groups to share experiences and participate in group therapy sessions- for example participation in community sports galas for team building
- Support through vocational and life skills training through the government established National Rehabilitation Centers, namely Beatrice, Ruwa and Lowden Lodge



Services for mine victims

- Educational -Carrier guidance and Counseling, Inclusive education/ Special schools, Large print textbook, Testing and Assessment Specialized schools , Literature in Braille, Audio books
- Health medical- surgery, Medication(drugs),Assistive technologies
- Sign language and Interpreters
- Assessment for proper placement, interventions,
- Vocational training-

AND MANY MORE DEPENDING ON THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF THE VICTIM



Implementation of OAP –Action #38

- Disability is a cross cutting issue in sustainable development programming through the Zimbabwe National Strategy Development 1 (2021-2025)
- Rehabilitation services are multi-disciplinary and calls for cooperation and **disability inclusive development** should be considered as it promotes participation by all members of a community, ensures that persons with disabilities participate in and benefit from the development activities on an equal basis with others (leave no one and no place behind)
- Establishment of the Technical Committee on the Implementation of the National Disability Policy –(21 Government Ministries and 5 Commission)
- Established the Assistive Technology Committee basing on the findings of the research study by Clinton Health Initiative which provided detail on assistive technology situation in Zimbabwe
- Strengthening reach to the marginalized through community outreach programmes, and two outreach activities were undertaken in 2022
- Ensuring that a database of victims is in place through engagements with the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency



Community Based Rehabilitation

- Strengthen community based rehabilitation through situation analysis to understand the situation on the ground – (Who gets what and where- strengthening the referral and networking system- mapping of service providers
- Engagements of victims in community awareness programmes for example in partnership such community radios like Avuxeni FM
- Strengthening communities in building resilience against socio-economic shocks and empowered in sustainable livelihood projects
- Consultations and participation by persons with disabilities to enforce ownership and sustainability and ensuring comprehensive accessibility
- Duty bearers must ensure that barriers are removed in society so that all people are empowered to realise their rights, including victims and broadly persons with disabilities
- Twin Track approach to ensure disability mainstreaming and specific initiatives such that people with disability are included in communities alongside people without disabilities



Integrating Rehabilitation into Policies and Programmes

- In Zimbabwe rehabilitation is integrated in the health system basing on the medical model of disability
- Challenges faced are mainly to do with lack of proper and appropriate consumables like assessment equipment, medication, assembling of assistive technologies and their supply.
- Also, some areas are hard to reach and remote which results in late identification of the mine victims
- Some communities , households or individuals lack information of services available for the victims
- Resources needed include financial and human capital to capacitate of communities on resilience building, and collaboration with the national establishment of database



Sustainability in Victim Assistance

- Ensure ownership by duty bearers through policies and then by victims through participation
- Enhanced community outreach programmes with multidisciplinary experts where services are provided within the localities of the victims
- Retooling and upgrading of the National Rehabilitation centres in terms of infrastructure and learning material
- Facilitation participation of victims in development programmes
- Uninterrupted provision of physical rehabilitation is feasible through supporting existing services and taking on board new initiatives.
- Continuously monitoring and evaluation of development initiatives to ensure the most marginalised people are no longer excluded, and are accessing and using services.



Sustainability in Victim Assistance

- Challenges usually relates to high costs of importing the products or the raw material for production
- For Zimbabwe it would be prudent to support local production of these products starting with the revitalization of the Ruwa National Rehabilitation Centre and other various private and government centres
- Waiver of import duty for those in the assembling and production of assistive technologies
- The long term solution to ensure availability, accessibility and affordability of assistive technologies would be providing comprehensive support for local production
- There is also need for international skills transfer programmes for the different assistive technologies in terms of production, assembling, prescription supported by the international framework



Disability Inclusion





THE END

**THANK
YOU**