

PRELIMINARY MID-TERM ASSESMENT

ZIMBABWE

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – VICTIM ASSISTANCE

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Algeria, Ecuador, Italy and Uganda)

Intersessional Meetings

20-22 June 2022

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

Mine casualties

3. Zimbabwe reported 3 casualties in 2021, all of whom were deminers, bringing the total number of registered mine victims to 272. Zimbabwe reported that the data on mine victims is not complete and that a survey is to be conducted to identify all mine and ERW victims. Zimbabwe also reported on inclusion of a set of questions in the upcoming national census that is expected to be carried out in 2022, through which Zimbabwe expects identifying the overall statistics on mine victims and the prevalence of disabilities.

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 also Actions #1 and #6)

4. Zimbabwe reported that the Department of Disability Affairs (DODA) at the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MOPLSW) is responsible for victim assistance.
5. The Committee recalls that in the past Zimbabwe reported that mine survivors were treated like other persons with disabilities in accordance with “National Strategic Document, Disabled Act” and the National Disability Policy. Zimbabwe reported that mine victims are included in all social protection services and that the DODA coordinates all programmes pertaining to persons with disabilities, including mine victims.

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

6. Zimbabwe reported that a new National Policy on Disability which was adopted in 2021 has been implemented and it includes an implementation framework (or action plan) and that it is inclusive of the needs and rights of mine victims.

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

7. Zimbabwe reported that assessments have been done periodically to better understand barriers faced by persons with disabilities and that the Ministry responsible for public transport was to make transports and roads accessible to all persons with disabilities. Zimbabwe reported that new buildings including schools are accessible for persons with disabilities.
8. The Committee would welcome further information on efforts made to lift barriers to ensure mine victims' access to services.

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. Zimbabwe reported that victim assistance has been integrated into overall provisions of the National Disability Policy and that the Policy is aligned with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

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

10. Zimbabwe reported that data on mine victims collected by Zimbabwean Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC) have been shared with the DODA and other relevant agencies.
11. The Committee recalls that in previous year, Zimbabwe reported that process was underway to establish a database to bring together information on all persons with disabilities. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.

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

12. Zimbabwe reported that there are healthcare centres and public hospitals throughout the country all of which are designed to serve everyone without discrimination and regardless of gender, ethnicity or disability. Zimbabwe also reported that in situations of emergency, specific government institutions intervene and provide ambulances.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

13. Zimbabwe reported that a referral system has been in place to facilitate everyone's access to services from community level upward to national level, as necessary in accordance with individual's situation and needs for assistance.
14. The Committee would welcome information on availability of directory of services in place to facilitate mine victims' access to services.

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

15. Zimbabwe reported that some limited rehabilitation services, specialists, prosthetics technicians and physical therapists are available including in most rural and mined areas.
16. The Committee would welcome additional information on efforts made to address the shortages of national capacity and professionals in physical rehabilitation services.

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

17. Zimbabwe reported availability of psychological services through provincial and national healthcare, guided by the Zimbabwe Mental Health policy. Zimbabwe reported shortages in psychological and psychosocial support and the lack of peer-to-peer support and indicated the need to engage associations of mine victims.

18. The Committee would welcome information on efforts made to address gaps in psychological and psychosocial support including the absence of peer counselling, in Zimbabwe.

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

19. Zimbabwe reported efforts to meet the social and economic needs of persons with disabilities, including by enforcing an employment quota; allocation of national budget for social protection services and vocational training; and, reserving 10% of the Basic Education and Assistance Model (BEAM) funds for children with disabilities. Zimbabwe also reported on availability of a social protection safety nets and budgetary allocation for disability programming across all social protection programmes.

20. The Committee would welcome additional information on inclusion of mine victims in social protection in Zimbabwe.

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

21. Zimbabwe reported that the safety and protection of persons with disabilities including mine survivors are integrated into National Humanitarian Response Preparedness led by the Civil Protection Unit.

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

22. Zimbabwe that organisations and associations of persons with disabilities are recognised by Government through the Disabled Persons Act which was being amended in line with the new National Disability Policy.

23. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Zimbabwe reported that mine survivors participate in relevant policies and programmes like any other persons, at all levels, that there is no discrimination against mine survivors, and they are treated equal like any everyone else in the community. Zimbabwe reported that two persons with disabilities represent all persons with disabilities in the House of Senate and all persons with disabilities are represented by a National Disability Board regardless of causes of disabilities.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

24. By adopting a new National Disability Policy, Zimbabwe showed commitments in upholding the rights of persons with disabilities and mine survivors.

25. The Committee would welcome further information on financial and other commitments the government of Zimbabwe have made to implement victim assistance.

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

26. Zimbabwe reported that gender equality and diversity have been considered in mine action related activities including victim assistance. The Committee recalls that Zimbabwe elaborated that there are no barriers to gender balanced participation in mine action, and efforts are made to increase women's participation and to disaggregate data.

27. Zimbabwe reported that the recently adopted National Disability Policy recognises the inherent dignity and worth of all human beings paying special attention to rights of persons with disabilities.

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

28. Zimbabwe reported challenges facing victim assistance efforts, such as the followings:

- A common understanding among national stakeholders on integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks is yet to be achieved;
- A national standard for accessibility is yet to be developed;
- A national disability / mine victims survey to be carried out to find out the number and needs of mine victims and persons with disabilities;
- There is a need for a rehabilitation outreach programme;
- Peer to peer support is lacking; and
- A national resource mobilisation strategy/plan for victim assistance is yet to be developed.

29. The Committee would welcome information on how the international community could be of further support to Zimbabwe's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Victim Assistance
Zimbabwe

Actions	Indicators						Additional information request by the Committee (deadline 9 August)
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
#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 efforts made to lift barriers to ensure mine victims' access to services.
#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 the existence of a centralised database and inclusion of casualty data in such a database.
	# 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						The Committee welcomes Zimbabwe to report on availability of directory of services or plan to develop one, to facilitate mine victims' access to services.
#38	# States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability and accessibility of comprehensive rehabilitation services						The Committee would welcome additional information on efforts made to address the shortages of national capacity and professionals in physical 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 information on peer counselling and its integration into health systems.
#39	# States Parties reporting on efforts to remove barriers to the social and economic inclusion of mine victims						The Committee would welcome additional information on inclusion of mine victims in social protection in Zimbabwe.
#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						The Committee welcomes Zimbabwe to share information on national financial commitments by the Government of Zimbabwe for victim assistance implementation.
#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						