

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

ZIMBABWE

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 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 5 casualties in 2023, all of whom were deminers and got injured, bringing the total number of registered mine victims to 304. Zimbabwe reported that the data on mine victims is not complete, casualties in areas contaminated by explosive remnants of war (ERW) have not been included and that a survey is to be conducted to identify all mine and ERW victims.
4. Zimbabwe reported that the 2022 Population and Housing Census indicated that 9.7% of the population are persons with disabilities. The census, however, did not include questions on causes of impairments, thus did not provide statistics on mine victims.
5. Zimbabwe further reported that the National Disability Policy requires the disaggregation of statistics by disability, age, and gender across social protection programmes.

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. 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. Zimbabwe also reported that efforts are coordinated through a Technical Committee composed of representatives from all 26 government ministries thus facilitating the process of working collaboratively to ensure the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks.
7. Zimbabwe reported that mine victims are included in all social protection services and disability related efforts, and as a cross cutting issue, disability is included in implementation of all development initiatives.

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

8. Zimbabwe reported implementing the National Policy on Disability and that the Mine Action National Strategic Plan 2018-2025 contains assistance to mine victims.

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

9. Zimbabwe reported that DODA has conducted extensive awareness raising campaigns through media and community outreach programmes in rural and urban areas in relation with the rights and needs of persons with disabilities, including mine survivors.
10. Zimbabwe also reported that the government uphold the principles of universal design in new public buildings, such as schools and hospitals.

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. 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). Responsibility for ministries and other agencies with regards to service provision to persons with disabilities are outline in the National Strategic Document and the National Disability Policy.

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

12. Zimbabwe reported that a process was underway to create a nation-wide injury surveillance mechanism, but due to budgetary constraints, it has not been achieved yet.
13. Zimbabwe reported that data on mine victims collected by the Zimbabwean Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC) has been shared with the DODA and other relevant agencies.

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

14. Zimbabwe on availability of 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, and that there are trauma centres available but within at least 100 km from mine affected communities.
15. Zimbabwe reported on availability of ambulances in all districts of the country, but many more are needed to meet the needs.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

16. Zimbabwe reported that a referral system has been in place to facilitate access to social protection services at the community level, and upward to national level in accordance with the situation and needs for assistance of mine victims.
17. Zimbabwe reported that there are two separate directories of services, one for Government Ministries and another one for NGOs, and that the directories are accessible at district level.

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

18. Zimbabwe also reported on availability of rehabilitation centres in all districts and that the key challenge is shortages in raw materials due to lack of resource constraints. Zimbabwe reported that rehabilitation services are prioritised by the government with efforts underway to make rehabilitation services available.

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

19. Zimbabwe reported on the availability of psychological services through provincial and national healthcare, guided by Zimbabwe's 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.

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

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

21. Zimbabwe reported social protection services are made available through the Ministry of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare, with social protection safety nets in place to address the needs of most vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities and mine victims.

22. The Committee recalls in 2023, Zimbabwe also reported on 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.

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

23. 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, as well as in the National Climate Policy which addresses issues of climate change induced disaster mitigation and humanitarian responses.

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

24. Zimbabwe reported that the National Disability Policy (2021) requires active and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in law, policy and plan making, processes and implementation.

25. In 2023, Zimbabwe also reported 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.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

26. By adopting a new National Disability Policy, Zimbabwe showed its commitment to upholding the rights of persons with disabilities and mine survivors. Zimbabwe reported allocation of budget

through social protection programme which covers mine victims, among other people in need of assistance. Zimbabwe reported allocation of USD 500 000 as national financial commitment to the implementation of Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's obligations in 2023.

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

27. Zimbabwe reported that gender equality and diversity have been considered in mine action related activities including victim assistance and that the new National Disability Policy recognises the inherent dignity and worth of all human beings paying special attention to rights of persons with disabilities. Zimbabwe reported that the National Policy requires data to be disaggregated by gender, disability, and age.

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

28. Zimbabwe reported several challenges facing hampering assistance to mine victims and persons with disabilities, including the followings:

- there is a need to identify all mine victims but due to lack of resources the identification/survey has not been carried out yet
- rehabilitation services are limited, key challenge includes shortages of raw materials and equipment
- access to health centres is challenging in affected areas, with healthcare centres located at least 100km far from affected communities
- no resources available to develop a national injury surveillance system
- limited participation of by representatives of mine survivors due to financial constraints

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	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						
#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						
	# 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						
#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 information on efforts made to address gaps in psychological and psychosocial support including the absence of peer-to-peer support, in Zimbabwe.
#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						
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 could be of further support to Zimbabwe's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.