

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS
COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Mozambique, Belgium, Chile and Italy)**

Intersessional Meetings 22-24 May 2019

Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Sudan

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Sudan of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2018 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

Mine casualties

2. The Committee observed that Sudan reported a total registered casualty of 2,149 between 2002 and February 2019, of which 1,530 were injured and 619 killed, indicating 21 new ERW casualties in 2018 and 13 in early 2019 in the North, Central and South Darfur states. The report includes further age- and gender-disaggregated information on all registered casualties including information that shows a drastic reduction of 50% in casualties in 2018, compared to 2014.

Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)

3. The Committee observed that Sudan launched re-surveying mine/ERW victims in the affected states of South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Kassala in order to update collected data, however, the initiative was hampered by security and financial challenges, therefore, NMAC decided to analyse the previously collected data instead.
4. The Committee would welcome information on the availability and gaps in both mainstream and specialised services as concerned mine survivors, affected families and communities.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

5. The Committee observed that Sudan reported implementing a national plan of action which is valid until the end of 2019 and that work is underway to revise and renew the plan.

Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including the allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)

6. The Committee observed that Sudan reported the allocation of over a half million US dollars to its victim assistance activities through the national and international fund to meet the needs of victims while noted that more funds are required to achieve victim assistance objectives. The report also states that NMAC continues to actively engage a wide range of actors including relevant ministries and the National Council for Persons with Disabilities in the implementation of victim assistance plan of action.

Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)

7. The Committee observed that Sudan is acting upon aspects of action 15 by reporting progress in 2018, as follows:
 - a. \$200,000 of the government's fund allocated to assist victims;

- b. Comprehensive medical treatment provided to new casualties in through funds provided by the government;
 - c. Improvements made in the economic situation, physical and psychological rehabilitation and social inclusion of 140 of mine/ERW victims in the states of Blue Nile, South Kordofan and Darfur;
 - d. 40 survivors were provided with mobility aid and prosthetics;
 - e. In 2018, the President of Sudan directed the government to observe the law on the rights of persons with disabilities, every state to assign a day in every three months and one day every year at the federal level to raise awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities/survivors and to prioritise provision of micro-loans/funds to persons with disabilities/survivors;
 - f. The substantial drop in mine/ERW casualties in comparison to the last ten years is attributed to the considerable efforts exerted in clearance and awareness raising.
8. The Committee would welcome further age- and gender-disaggregated information on survivors that have received direct or indirect rehabilitation, socio-economic and psychological and emergency and medical supports in 2018 and a clarification on progresses of 'declaration of 2018' in areas of health, education, accessibility, rehabilitation and livelihood.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

9. The Committee observed that Sudan continues to increase national capacities including within the Al Amal hospital to ensure the provision of medical care and that NMAC continued to regularly coordinate victim assistance efforts with the relevant national and international stakeholders.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Action #16)

10. The Committee observed that Sudan, like in the previous year, did not report on inclusion and participation of mine survivors in victim assistance and other relevant policies and programmes and would welcome information in this regard.

Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)

11. The Committee observed that Sudan reported efforts to raise awareness on the needs of mine survivors/persons with disabilities including through marking the international disability day in 2018 with the participation of high-level dignitaries as well as by conducting training workshops to promote the rights of persons with disability in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states.

Measurable improvements, challenges and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)

12. The Committee observed that Sudan was implementing action 18 by reporting the following main challenges and some opportunities to improve assistance:

Challenges:

- a. Shortages in funding;
- b. Security constraints in some parts of South Kordofan and Blue Nile states;
- c. Difficulty to access affected areas due to rough routes, vast distances and unfavourable climatic conditions.

Opportunities

- a) The government provides some financial resources to victim assistance programme;
 - b) There is an increase in fund provided by donors for victims' assistance;
 - c) National economic institutions and firms contribute to victim assistance;
 - d) Combatant national organizations with a potential capacity to bear the responsibility towards the victims of mines and ERW.
13. The Committee observed that Sudan reaffirms commitments to ensure inclusion of mine/ERW victims into their communities through socio-economic, rehabilitation and psychological support, and encourages the country to increase efforts to achieve the objectives of the actions 12 go 18 of the Maputo Action Plan by the Oslo Review Conference in November 2019.