

VICTIM ASSISTANCE ASPECTS OF THE CARTAGENA ACTION PLAN: THE CASE FOR UGANDA

PRESENTATION TO THE MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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National Legal Framework

- The Uganda Constitution recognises the rights of PWDs and provides for enactment of laws and policies- article 35.
- PWDs represented at village, parish, subcounty district & Parliament
- The National Council for Disability (2003) monitors and evaluates implementation of disability programmes
- The Persons with Disabilities Act 2006 provides a comprehensive legal protection for PWDs



National Legal Framework-cont

- Employment Act 2006
- Local Governments Act
- The Equal Opportunities Act 2007
- The Education Act 2008 provides for inclusive education



National Legal Framework-cont

- The Parliamentary Election Act 2005 provides for 5 MPs
- The Children' Act for early assessment of disabilities among children



National Policy Framework



- The 2006 National Policy on Disability provides framework for responding to the needs of PWDS
- National Plan of Action on Disability 2010-2014 is pending final approval
- The National Health Policy 2010-2020 streamlines, strengthen and extend rehabilitation services to all districts in line with the decentralisation policy

National Planning Framework



- The 2007 Microfinance Outreach Plan aims at spreading micro finance services to underserved areas where the poor live PWDS do access
- CBR strategic plan to fully integrate PWDS into their communities and to equalise opportunities
- The National Development Plan 2010-2015 guides public action to eradicate poverty and promote economic growth. Disability mainstreaming is a core part.

National Planning Framework - cont



- The Health Sector Strategic and Implementation Plan(HSSIP) 2010-2015 to broaden coverage & improve quality of services including for PWDS and Survivors
- The Education Sector Strategic Plan 2004-2015 aims at improving access to education for children with disabilities

Uganda developed the comprehensive plan on victim assistance 2010-2014



- VISION = Full inclusion and participation of survivors and other PWD in all spheres of society
- MISSION = To facilitate the equalisation of opportunities and rights for survivors and other PWD in mine affected communities

Overall objective

- *To increase access to affordable and sustainable quality services to address the rights and needs of survivors and other PWD in mine affected communities*

Specific objectives

- *To establish a reliable qualitative and quantitative database on disability by 2011*
- *Review, formulate, disseminate & implement laws & policies that guarantee the rights of survivors and other PWD by 2014*
- *Develop & or strengthen emergency response in mine affected areas*
- *Increase access to quality health services in mine affected areas*
- *Increase access to Physical & rehabilitation services to survivors & other PWDs by 2014*

Specific objectives -cont

- *To increase literacy levels from 48% to 60% among survivors & other PWDs*
- *Achieve 60% access to appropriate psychological & psychological support services to identified survivors & other PWDs*
- *Improve livelihoods of > 1200 survivors, other PWD & their families*
- *Raise awareness among survivors & other PWDs, CSO on their rights under international conventions & protocols*
- *Strengthen coordination*
- *Institute effective M&E*

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- *Human rights-based approach*
- *Non-discrimination*
- *Inclusion*
- *Gender responsiveness*
- *Dignity*
- *Equity & Equality*
- *Social choice*
- *Adaptability*
- *Transparency & Accountability*

GUIDING PRINCIPLES



- *Multi-sectoral approach*
- *Mainstreaming*
- *Decentralised service delivery*
- *CBR*
- *PPP*
- *Resource mobilisation*
- *Awareness raising*
- *Capacity building*
- *Research and documentation*
- *Lobbying and advocacy*
- *Family and community based care*

Planned Interventions



- *Laws & Policies*
- *Data collection & management*
- *Emergency response*
- *Health care*
- *Physical & Functional rehabilitation*
- *Education Psychological & Psychosocial support*
- *Economic growth*
- *Awareness raising*
- *Coordination*
- *M & E*

Achievements so far:



1. Data collection and management

- *Reviewed existing tools*
- *Conducted needs assessment of survivors & other PWDs*
- *Conducted mapping of services & providers*
- *Office of the Prime Minister Mine Action Center getting reports using IMSMA format*

Achievements cont



2. Laws & Policies

- *Initial report for CRPD committee in final stages*
- *Shadow report from NGOs also prepared*
- *The Disability Act 2006 being amended to make it more easily operationalised*

Achievements cont

3. Emergency response

- Casualty units being upgraded in a phased manner
- Emergency response capabilities assessed in mine affected areas
- National Ambulance system being discussed
- MOH implementing village health teams to link with communities, provide 1st Aid, and for early identification & referral



Achievements cont

4. Health

- Some equipment procured by MOH for Casualty units
- Health care services assessed in mine affected areas (Gulu Kumi, Buluba, Kasese)
- Some guidelines on trauma care, wheel chairs developed
- Some Health workers oriented in injury management



Achievements cont

5. Rehabilitation

- Assessment of rehab. Services needs of survivors in mine affected areas
- 2 orthopaedic w/shops (Mbale & Fortportal) reinforced to produce more assistive devices, courtesy of ICRC
- Assistive devices distributed
- Training of Rehab. workers on new wheel chair technologies ongoing
- Self Help Groups identified and trained courtesy of Handicap International



Achievements cont

6. Education

- Training of SNE teachers emphasized and their recruitment by affirmative action
- 2 secondary schools built for the severely disabled
- Functional adult literacy campaigns ongoing
- Children with disability given special consideration in National Exams



Achievements cont

7. Economic empowerment

- *Microfinance Institutions & SACCOS encouraged to use affirmative action to provide loans to survivors & other PWDs*
- *National Agricultural Advisory services (NADDS) teaching all on new farming techniques, survivors inclusive. Also gives farm inputs*
- *Social transfers of ug shs. 22000 per month to vulnerable persons to start in August 2011 in a phased manner*
- *Companies employing >PWD get tax exemption*

Achievements cont

8. Awareness

- *International conventions awareness campaigns ongoing*
- *International day of the disabled given high profile. Presided over by high ranking officials eg President, Speaker of Parliament*
- *Disability IEC materials in circulation*

9. Coordination

- *Since 2007, coordination under leadership of MGLSD*
- *A multisectoral steering committee sits regularly but limited by budget cuts since January*

10. Monitoring & Evaluation

- *Other stakeholder give quarterly & annual reports*
- *Joint inter ministerial supervision visits conducted*
- *National Council for Disability has broad mandate but is not monitoring Comprehensive Plan*

CHALLENGES

- *Sustainability of interventions*
- *Funding including cooperation & communication on proposals by civil society*
- *Funding to supplement national budget*
- *Competing priorities esp. communicable diseases e.g HIV/AIDS, Malaria*
- *Priority of injuries though increasing, needs further emphasis.*
- *Inadequate Human Resources of all cadres & for some completely lacking*
- *Productivity of existing Human Resources still constrained by several factors*



Thanks a lot

