



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**AP MINE BAN CONVENTION: STANDING COMMITTEE ON VICTIM
ASSISTANCE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION**

**GENEVA
23RD MAY 2012**

**Challenges and work that remains in applying the
victim assistance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan
at the national level**

BY: Mr. Herbert Baryayebwa
Director Social Protection
Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
P. O. Box 7136, **Kampala**
+256-414-345002
+256-772-593920
E-mail: baryayebwah@yahoo.com

The Co-chairs
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to be afforded an opportunity to report on the challenges faced by the Republic of Uganda in achieving the aims of the victim assistance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan and what we expect to achieve by the Third Review Conference in 2014.

As previously reported, in 2010 the Comprehensive Plan on Victim Assistance was revised to realign it with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Cartagena Action Plan and the National Development Plan. Implementation of the current Comprehensive Plan on Victim Assistance for the period 2010-2014 will enable Uganda to measure and report on progress in achieving the Cartagena Action Plan.

In April 2012, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development with assistance from the Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention undertook a review of progress in the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan on Victim Assistance. The review involved efforts to collect and consolidate information and input on efforts to achieve the objectives of the plan. Although some progress has been made, the review has identified gaps and challenges that need to be addressed.

I take this opportunity to highlight four significant challenges:

Firstly, there is no functional monitoring mechanism to track activities since the Comprehensive Plan was adopted. My Ministry seeks assistance to establish a thorough and functioning mechanism in order to effectively monitor progress in implementing not only the Comprehensive Plan but also other disability-related policies and plans. The mechanism should include tools to collect information on a regular basis from the district and sub-county level. Adequate resources and appropriate training of personnel are needed.

Secondly, there is a lack of data on disability and access to services by survivors and other persons with disabilities. Attention is needed to build capacity within relevant government agencies to establish an effective disability information management system at all levels that includes information on the cause of disability, including landmines and other ERW. This capacity should also be built at the district level to facilitate nationwide standardised information. There is a need to develop a standardised disability data collection tool to be utilised by all actors.

Thirdly, there is limited financial and human resources to undertake interventions. In particular, the lack of resources available to my Ministry has limited the potential to implement activities and enhance coordination and monitoring of the Comprehensive Plan on Victim Assistance.

The fourth challenge relates to limited coordination and collaboration between stakeholders. The Government has the infrastructure to promote coordination, collaboration and progress in implementing the Comprehensive Plan on Victim Assistance and other national disability-related policies and plans to improve access to rights and quality services for survivors and other persons with disabilities through the National Intersectoral Committee on Disability and the National Council for Disability. However, the review process has shown that not all actors understand the relevance of victim assistance to their work; some are not sharing information or coordinating with local authorities; or in some cases disability specific data is not collected to show how survivors and other persons with disabilities are integrated into mainstream programmes that would improve their well-being. With improved coordination and collaboration it is likely that more progress in implementing the Comprehensive Plan would be evident.

Between now and the Third Review Conference, if adequate resources are available, Uganda anticipates being able to report progress on all actions relating to victim assistance in the Cartagena Action Plan. For example, in the area of laws and policies, the 2006 Persons with Disabilities Act is being amended to ensure that it complies with the CRPD and the 2011 National Council for Disability Amendment Bill has been tabled in Parliament.

In terms of economic empowerment, the most significant achievement is the implementation of the Government's Special Grants for Persons with Disabilities. The grants which are disbursed at the district level are available to groups of 15 – 30 persons with disabilities to undertake income generating activities. Landmine survivors are among the beneficiaries.

Ladies and gentlemen, Government in partnership with other stakeholders is working out modalities for strengthening the capacity to collect and analyse comprehensive data on disability. In an effort to promote awareness, more activities will be undertaken to raise awareness on the Comprehensive Plan to ensure that interventions are included in workplans and budgets within the framework of decentralization.

Coordination of victim assistance related activities within the disability sector will be strengthened.

Finally I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the various stakeholders that are participating in the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan on Victim Assistance. I also take this opportunity to respectfully call on donors to support the work of my Ministry to enhance our efforts to implement the Comprehensive Plan and coordinate activities. It is through such concerted effort that will lead to the achievement of the set objectives in readiness for the Third Review Conference in 2014.

Thank you for listening.