

**Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-
Economic Reintegration**

**Presentation by
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**Progress Report in improving the Status
of Victim Assistance in Ethiopia**

Dear Co-Chairs, distinguished delegates

First of all I am very pleased to inform you that Ethiopia submitted the initial report as per Article 7 of the Convention.

In Ethiopia, the progress made in promoting victim Assistance and Socio-economic reintegration of landmine survivors in particular and people with disabilities in general focuses mainly on revision of the existing laws and policy frameworks, advocacy and sensitization. This is one important pillar of ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities through enactment of laws.

Thus, this brief presentation highlights recent developments concerning data collection, accessibility, provision of appropriate psychological and social support,

protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and development of plan of Action.

1. National Data Collection

- ◆ The Ethiopian Central Statistical Agency conducted the third National population and Housing Census starting in the second half of 2007. The census incorporated a series of questions on disability including land mine casualties. It's expected that the report will reveal a realistic and comprehensive data regarding people with disabilities in the Country. The report will be released before the end of 2008.
- ◆ Meanwhile, the Ethiopian National disability Associations in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and UNICEF are compiling secondary data to identify major casual factors for disabilities and current socio-economic situations of persons with disabilities.

On the other hand, limited mine casualty data is being collected by the Ministry of Health, Ethiopian Mine Action Office, Landmine Survivors Network - Ethiopia, Rehabilitation and Development Organization (RaDO). However, the updated real figure for landmine Survivors is not yet know.

2. Access to trauma Care Services

The Federal Ministry of Health has designed Health Sector Development programme and presently implementing third phase (HSDP-III) that covers a five year period from July 2005 - June 2010.

The HSDP serves as a comprehensive national plan to :-

- ⇒ increase the number of Hospitals, Health Centers, and Health posts.
 - ⇒ improve Human resource development (Medical Doctors, Health Officers, Nurses, Health extension workers, etc)
 - ⇒ ensure fair distribution of health services to rural population
 - ⇒ achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGS)
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- ◆ The MoH has established an emergency unit in the Ministry to coordinate and guide the health emergency preparedness and response efforts in the country.

3. Access to Rehabilitation Services

- ◆ The National programme of Action Concerning Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities is under revision in light of the provisions in the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. In the revision exercise, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the National Associations of Persons with Disabilities and pertinent non-governmental organizations are involved.

Besides this, the National physical rehabilitation strategy as a guiding framework for improving physical rehabilitation services is being drafted in collaboration with ICRC.

4. Psychological and Social Support

- ◆ The Federal Ministry of Education launched the Special Needs Education Program Strategy with the objective of ensuring access for children with special educational needs. Accordingly, 33,300 children with disabilities were enrolled in primary schools (Grade 1-8) in 2006/07
- ◆ Advocacy and Awareness raising workshops(3) were conducted to sensitize the community geared

towards promotion of psychological support and social reintegration of people with disabilities.

5. National legal and policy frameworks

- ◆ UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is submitted to the Council of Ministers for ratification.
- ◆ Popularization workshops on UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities were conducted.
- ◆ The Right to Employment of persons with disabilities proclamation No 101/1994 was revised and amended to No 568/2008.

The major differences made in the amendment :-

- right based in its content
- discrimination is prohibited
- Burden of proof is shifted from suitor to the accused
- provision of reasonable accommodation
- practice of affirmative action
- implementation of the proclamation
- right to institute an action

In addition :-

- the Developmental Social Welfare Policy which addresses the issue of disability is under revision

- the situation of physical and communication/information accessibility is assessed and strong justification paper for legislation is prepared.

6. Implementation of legislation and Plan of Action

- ◆ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ethiopian Mine Action Office, the Landmine Survivors Network - Ethiopia and other relevant partners exert coordinated efforts to implement the plan of Action.

7. Major Challenges

- ◆ Lack of Human resource to coordinate an inter-ministerial initiative
- ◆ Disability is Not getting due attention. (Not in the list of priority Agenda)
- ◆ Disability is Not mainstreamed
- ◆ Lack of capacity in the Regional Labour and Social Affairs Bureaux.