

Republic of Sudan

Meeting of the Standing Committees

**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
29th November – 3rd December 2010**

Oral Statement on Victim Assistance

Sudan

Ladies and Gentlemen

The VA program in Sudan has registered many progresses in most VA areas of work thanks to the collaboration and support provided by UNMAO, UNDP and thanks to the involvement of relevant governmental bodies, national and international organizations at central and local levels.

The latest IMSMA report shows a total of 4,426 casualties in Sudan out of which 132 news cases recorded from January to October 2010. Additionally two needs assessment were completed in Juba and Upper Nile State where a total of 238 (confirmed) and over 1,000 (raw data) have been recorded respectively. The needs assessment in Juba was carried out by the South Sudan Mine Action Authority while the one in Upper Nile State was implemented by a local NGO.

Following the resolutions of the Cartagena Summit, the Federal Ministry of Social Welfare issued a ministerial degree that recommends the involvement of all landmine victims associations in any decisions and activities mentioned in VA National Work Plan, legal framework and policies.

In Northern Sudan, at state level, the victims are participating in every meeting concerning their activities as well as the participation of Landmine Victim Associations in the VA monthly coordination meetings as members of the VA working group. Landmine Victims Associations were empowered and involved in implementation of victim assistance/disability projects. Mine/ERW victims and other persons with disabilities are fully involved in all the VA activities such as monthly coordination meetings, VA training courses and special events such as International Mine Awareness Day and Assistance to Mine Action Day and awareness campaigns on their rights.

In southern Sudan, a landmine victim association will be established in 2011 though a project funded by CIDA/UNMAO and implemented by the South Sudan Mine Action Authority.

The inter-ministerial / inter-sectoral coordination mechanism is in place and actively led by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs that coordinates all mine action activities.

The National Mine Action Centre in Khartoum chairs the VA working group. There are some ministries participating in the working group as members such as Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Welfare, NGOs that working in the field of VA / Disability and disabled unions are members in the working groups.

The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare in Juba chairs the VA working group while the Southern Sudan Mine Action Authority co-chairs it. Additionally, all VA interventions are designed and coordinated with relevant governmental bodies and national and international institution at central and local levels such as state ministries, DDR, NAPO and others.

The National Mine Action Centre classified casualties using the IMSMA database. The National Mine Action Centre VA department established a national database using a unified format compatible with IMSMA to record existing data on mine casualties, the National format was developed by NMAC in collaboration and technical support from UNMAO. The format was shared with VA Working group and the final version was adopted in September 2010, the data collected and entered. The data will be available to relevant stakeholders.

The NMAC VA department with the VA working group members is in the process of modifying the national action plan in accordance with the CAP. This national work plan has been modified in February 2009. The Ministry of Social Welfare has strengthened the disability department, new staff has been recruited. Recently the High Disability Council was established by presidential decree on the 7th October 2010, NMAC and UNMAO are members. The major mandate of the council is to monitor and evaluate the national policies, plans related to disability and victim assistance. High Disability Council is an internal monitoring tool for CRPD.

NMAC is running capacity building project funded by CIDA and monitored by UNMAO, the objectives of this project are:

- Enable the VA staff at NMAC to monitor and evaluate all the ongoing VA projects on regular basis in collaboration with UNMAO.
- To build up the capacity of the NMAC-VA staff through training courses in different specialties.
- To enhance the capacity of NMAC on mine/ERW victims' information management.
- To cover some of the department's running cost, to enhance its engagement in Victim Assistance activities and become actively involved in all phases of project implementation.
- To enhance the leading coordination role of the VA department, and sustain the existing coordination mechanisms.
- To advocate for VA and disability issues through the organization of special events.

There were internal and external training courses for the VA staff and other stakeholders organized by UNMAO, UNDP and specialized centers in VA.

Recently NMAC has taken up the challenge and the responsibility of building the capacity of NGOs implementing VA projects. This was done through two courses which were conducted in 2010. The First course was on Victim Assistance (May 2010) and the second one was in data collection and need assessment (October 2010). More courses are planned depending on availability of funds. All in all, resources and funds remain one of the main challenges for both NMAC and implementing partner in Sudan.

Additionally, NMAC is monitoring about 9 VA projects in the Northern States (on going) as follows:

- 3 projects in Socio - economic empowerment (Damazine, Kadogli).
- 1 project in Socio-economic empowerment and physical rehabilitation (Khartoum).
- 1 project in Psychological support (Khartoum).
- 4 projects in Empowerment and training of LMV associations (Khartoum, Damazine, Kassala and Kadogli).
- 1 project on Information Technology (Khartoum).
- 1 project implemented by a group of mine/ERW victims on economical empowerment in Khartoum.

In Southern Sudan the VA program is managed by UNMAO in close collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare and the Southern Sudan Mine Action Authority.

Currently at total of 8 VA projects (funded by CIDA through UNMAO) are implemented by national and international NGOs. 6 projects focus on areas such as economical empowerment and CBR while one project supported a center for the production of mobility devises in Rumbek.

Additionally the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare is managing the Physical Referral Rehabilitation Centre in Juba. The center is supported by ICRC.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to all national and international NGOs working in the areas of Victim Assistance and Disability in Sudan, to the ICRC for their tireless assistance and good work and to CIDA Canada, the Government of Japan (OTHERS???) for their generous and continuous support.

Thank You