



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

The Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the use, stockpiling Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

General status and operation of the Convention; the implementation of the Comprehensive plan on victim Assistance in Uganda

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Mr President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me pleasure to be afforded an opportunity to present the general status and operation of the Convention regarding the implementation of the Comprehensive plan on Victim Assistance in Uganda. After the Cartagena Conference, Uganda embarked on the review of the Comprehensive plan to realign it with the Cartagena Action Plan. The review was coordinated by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. In order to ensure ownership various stakeholders from line Ministries, Disabled Peoples' Organizations as well as survivors of landmines and explosive remnants of war participated. The participants helped in setting up priorities under different thematic areas roles of various stakeholders were worked out.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the following have been achieved since the launch of Comprehensive Victim Assistance Plan in 2010.

A data collection tool was developed with participation of various stakeholders including survivors of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). At least 1125 land mine/ERW survivors have been identified.

Out of the 1125 landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities, 54 have received medical treatment and survivors and other persons with disabilities have received prosthesis.

As regards Education, five schools received an assortment of sports equipment as a way of promoting inclusive education and construction of accessibility ramps to classes and pit latrines have been done.

In terms of economic ^{Empowerment} ~~Employment~~, 122 landmine survivors have been trained in various Vocational skills through apprenticeship. This has helped them to utilize the skills to start income generating activities within their respective communities.

An assortment of 920 livelihood items such as apiary kits, sewing machines carpentry and joinery kits, hoes, pangas, ox-plough's oxen were distributed to landmine/ERW survivor groups. 165 survivors and 44 family members received livestock.

Psychosocial support has been provided to 880 survivors and 114 family members received counseling. This activity was carried out by Rehabilitation Officers, Community Development Workers and staff from NGOs. The Psychosocial Support training Manual which was developed in 2008 is still useful for training the various stakeholders

62 survivors have accessed equipment for sports and leisure activities.

The above named achievements have been realised due to Government support of the special grants for persons with disabilities, a countrywide programme that supports persons with disabilities to start on income generating activities. The efforts were supported by handicap International which has been operating in Western Uganda and parts of Northern Uganda.

Although these achievements have been made there still remains a challenge of inadequate funding to cover all affected districts..There is need to strengthen the socio-economic reintegration.It is believed that once the survivors are economically empowered,they will be able to sustain themselves

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to appeal for more support to be able to achieve the objectives stated in the Comprehensive Plan on Victim Assistance. It is through such concerted effort that the needs of survivor of landmines and other persons with disabilities will be met.

I thank you for listening.

Herbert Baryayebwa

**DIRECTOR SOCIAL PROTECTION, MINISTRY OF GENDER,
LABOUR & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**