

**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**

9 October 2018

Original: English
English and French only

Seventeenth Meeting
Geneva, 26–30 November 2018
Item 9 (a) of the provisional agenda
Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention
Assisting the victims: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate
of the Committee on Victim Assistance

**Conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on
Victim Assistance**

**Submitted by the Committee on Victim Assistance (Belgium, Croatia,
Ecuador, Mozambique)**

Addendum

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Burundi

1. The Committee welcomes the updates submitted by Burundi containing information on progress and challenges in its victim assistance programmes. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

2. Burundi did not provide an update on new mine casualties. The Committee would welcome information in this regard, as well as on the total number of mine victims in Burundi, including “sex and age-disaggregated data”.

Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)

3. The Committee concluded that Burundi is acting upon its commitments under Action 12 of the Maputo Action by reporting on data collection in ten provinces of the country. The Directorate General of Civil Protection through Direction de l’Action Humanitaire contre les Mines et Engins non Explosés (DAHMI) has collected data on mine victims in the following provinces: Mayor, Dubanza, Cibitoke, Muramvya, Mwaro, Ngozi, Rumonge, Rutana, Bujumbura, and Gitega, and as a result 481 mine victims were identified to be in need of assistance.

4. While acknowledging Burundi’s efforts in identifying mine victims and their needs, the Committee concluded that it would welcome sex- and age-disaggregated information on the 481 identified victims and information on types and magnitude of their needs.

Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)

5. The Committee concluded that Burundi is acting upon aspects of Action 15 by reporting on direct provisions of assistive products and in-kind assistance to mine victims, as follows:

- Mine victims were provided with 40 wheelchairs, 18 tricycles and two prostheses, and;
- Mine victims were provided with 126 cartons of soap and one ton of rice.

6. The Committee concluded that it would welcome sex- and age-disaggregated information on mine survivors benefited from assistive products and economic supports, and it would also encourage Burundi to report on efforts, as per Action 15, to increase availability of and accessibility to comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age.

Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)

7. Burundi did not report on efforts to implement Action 13, Action 14, Action 15, specifically on effort to strengthen local capacities and to enhance coordination with subnational entities in order to improve and facilitate assistance to victims and would welcome information on these matters, Action 16 or on Action 17. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on these efforts.

8. The Committee concluded that Burundi is acting on aspects of the imperatives under Action 18 by providing information concerning challenges facing mine victims and the country's victim assistance programme, as follows:

(a) An overarching challenge is insufficient resources, as victim assistance does not receive the same priority as other pillars of mine action. This has affected Burundi's plan to set up a mechanism and structure for victim assistance programme;

(b) The integration of victim assistance, including integration of care, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims have been undertaken at a slow pace, as victim assistance is seen as the exclusive responsibility of mine action authority. The report also stated that delay in integrating victim assistance into broader contexts, is also due to lack of priority given to victim assistance by stakeholders;

(c) Sometimes services offered to victims do not correspond to the needs of victims in terms of quantities and/or qualities, and;

(d) Lack of inclusion and participation of landmine survivors in decision-making processes and lack of reliable data have added upon the list of challenges in victim assistance in Burundi.

9. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts to overcome the identified challenges in advance of the next Review Conference.

Chad

10. The Committee welcomes the submission by Chad of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

11. Chad reported a total 136 mines/ERW (Explosive Remnants of War) casualties, including 33 killed and 113 injured in Borkou and Tibesti regions in 2017, which shows a significant increase in comparison to 27 casualties reported in 2016. The Committee concluded that it would welcome this information disaggregated by sex and age.

Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)

12. Chad reported on assessment of mine victims in Borkou and Tibesti in 2017, and indicated that, in general, victims face rising problems of access to services of all kinds, including due to inaccessibility of roads that hinder service delivery to victims and their referral to services. The Committee concluded that it welcomes information on any plans to address these challenges.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

13. The Committee noted that a time-bound, five-year plan of action developed in 2016 was still awaiting validation by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. The Committee concluded that it would be important for Chad to review the relevance of the plan given that the two-years have passed from the time it was developed, and adopt it. The Committee concluded that it would also welcome a copy of the plan, once validated.

Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)

14. Chad did not report on commitments outlined under Action 15, neither on recommendations made by the Committee in 2017 in relation to Chad's efforts to address the following challenges reported in 2016:

- Lack of technical expertise in rehabilitation, education and economic integration;
- Lack of facilities and equipment for medical care, rehabilitation, education, and economic integration;
- Lack of coordination of victim assistance and social and cultural barriers which impede the participation and interaction of persons with disability in society.

15. The Committee encourages Chad to fulfil its commitments under Action 15 and report on plans and activities addressing the reported challenges.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

16. Chad reported on efforts to coordinate victim assistance with the participation of stakeholders in the Coordination Group for Victim Assistance (CGVA), but did not report on efforts to increase local capacities for the implementation of victim assistance, and would welcome information on this matter.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)

17. Chad reported that in 2016 it was agreed that the CGVA would be composed of two organizations of persons with disabilities involved in victim assistance issues along with the Mine Action Centre, the Directorate for the Integration of Victims Persons with Disabilities, the National Centre for Equipment and Rehabilitation and Humanity & Inclusion to follow up the implementation of the victim assistance action plan, but the action plan had remained invalidated.

18. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on Chad's efforts to include mine victims in victim assistance activities and other relevant programmes and forums, such as disability policies and programmes.

Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)

19. The Committee observed that Chad had not reported any efforts to remove physical, behavioural or other forms of barriers, and activities to raise awareness on the rights of mine victims, in an age and gender-sensitive manner, and would welcome information on these matters.

Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)

20. The Committee concluded that Chad had not reported on efforts to implement Action 14 – 15 of the Maputo Action Plan and would welcome information on these matters.

21. The Committee encourages Chad to report on measurable improvements made in the well-being and the guarantee of the rights of mine victims, remaining challenges and

priorities to achieve the objectives of Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan, ahead of the 2019 Review Conference.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

22. The Committee welcomes the submission by the Democratic Republic of the Congo of its Article 7 report for the period of 2014 to 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

23. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported 156 mine casualties, disaggregated by sex and age, including 44 in 2014, 16 in 2015, 36 in 2016, 51 in 2017 and 9 in 2018 in North Kivu, South Kivu, Kasai-Central, Kasai, Upper Lomami, Ituri and Upper Uele provinces, which have increased the total number of registered mine victims in the country to 2,719.

Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)

24. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported continued efforts to identify and register new mine victims. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on the results of the National Strategic Plan developed in 2010 to assist victims, including improving the data collection and systems to analyse data. The Committee further concluded that it would also welcome information on efforts to assess the availability and gaps in mainstream and specialised services, disaggregated by sex and age.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

25. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that since the adoption of the Maputo Action Plan, the country had not updated previous plans or developed a new plan of action for the implementation of the Maputo Action Plan. The Committee encourages the Democratic Republic of the Congo to develop a time-bound and measurable plan of action to achieve the objectives outlined under Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan.

Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)

26. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported on the availability of rehabilitation assistance in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Heri Kwetu Orthopedic Centres in Bukavu (South Kivu Province), Kalembe-lembe and the Centre for Disability in Kinshasa, Shirika la Umoja in Goma (North Kivu Province), University Clinics of Kinshasa and Jukay Centre in Kananga (Kasai-Central). The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information, disaggregated by sex and age, on mine victims that have benefited from these services.

27. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that since 2012 there has been a lack of post-traumatic rehabilitation programmes, psychological support, economic reintegration assistance and social reintegration and would welcome information on current or planned efforts to make such services available to all mine victims.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

28. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that the Victim Assistance Coordination Group that was led by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Humanitarian Action and National Solidarity has been inactive as a result of a restructuring of the Ministry in 2016, and that in January 2018, the Congolese Mine Action Centre has activated the coordination group on victim assistance. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts to increase local capacities and enhance sub-national coordination of victim assistance efforts.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)

29. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that victims' associations have always been involved in all activities that concern them as well as in other activities of the mine action programme. The committee welcomes additional information on the frequency and the level of participation of mine victims, including in mine-affected provinces.

Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)

30. The Committee concluded that the Democratic Republic of the Congo had not reported on efforts to implement Action 14 and Action 15 and 17, in particular on actions taken to remove physical, behavioural or other types of barriers, expanding quality services in rural and remote areas, or raising awareness on the rights of mine victims, and would welcome information on these matters.

31. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported a number of challenges such as the absence of a victim assistance action plan since the adoption of the Maputo Action Plan, discontinuation of projects concerning post-traumatic rehabilitation, psychological support, economic and social reintegration, and social reintegration as well as a lack of coordination due to inactiveness of the victim assistance coordination group, which has been re-launched in early 2018.

32. The Committee encourages the Democratic Republic of the Congo to report on measurable improvements made in the well-being and the guarantee of the rights of mine victims, remaining challenges and priorities to achieve the objectives of Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan, ahead of the upcoming Review Conference.

Senegal

33. The Committee welcomes the submission by Senegal of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities and the submission of additional information in response to the Committee's preliminary observations, on 7 June 2018. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

34. Senegal reported one accident in 2017, which had caused three casualties, and increased the total number of mine victims to 829, of which 593 have been injured and 236 have been killed. No casualty was reported in 2016, and one man was killed by a mine accident in 2015. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information disaggregated by sex and age on all registered casualties.

Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)

35. The Committee concluded that Senegal was acting upon aspects of its commitments under Action 12, by reporting as follows:

(a) Centre National d'Action Antimines au Sénégal (CNAMS) continued collecting data on mine victims, in collaboration with its partners including, local associations, non-governmental organizations and armed forces, and;

(b) Information collected includes the identification of victims and their needs, such as their rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration needs. These efforts are expected to facilitate the free access of victims to physical rehabilitation, mental health and socio-economic integration.

36. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on efforts to assess the needs of all victims and the availability and gaps in mainstream and specialized services.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

37. Senegal reported that its National Plan of Action for Victim Assistance (PANAV) was ended in 2014 and that due to lack of financial resources the plan has not been renewed. The renewal of the plan, however, has been included in CNAMS' 2018 work plan, but no action has been taken in this regard due to lack of funding. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts to mobilize resources for this effort.

Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)

38. Senegal reported on enhancements in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, as follows:

(a) Health assistance systems for people with disabilities is set up by the Ministry of Health and Social Action including a national social welfare service established and social workers appointed to hospitals and an equal opportunities card provided to people with disabilities, including mine victims, ensuring their right to free access to various services including health care. The card has been made available and distributed in the mine-affected regions. Senegal further reported that its armed forces play an important role in providing emergency relief to mine victims, and;

(b) With the Equal Opportunity Card that mine victims and persons with disabilities receive they are provided with free access to various services provided by the State. 195,880,720 CFA francs had been budgeted for the implementation of the PANAV.

Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)

39. The Committee concluded that Senegal is acting upon its commitments contained under Action 15 in relation to the availability of and accessibility to services, by indicating that support for mobility is fundamental for the socio-economic integration of victims of mines and by reporting the following:

(a) Maintenance of capacity within the regional hospitals in mine-affected regions of Ziguinchor, Kolda and Sedhiou, to ensure availability of free emergency relief support, subsequent medical care and assistive products for mine victims;

(b) Maintenance of three departmental health centres in Oussouye, Bignona and Goudomp, to continue responding to the needs of mine victims in affected areas by providing free care and prescribed drugs to mine victims. In 2017, 34 mine survivors with prescriptions benefited from free health and drug assistance. These forms of assistance are regulated by bilateral agreements signed between the CNAMS and health centres, which have been approved under the National Plan of Action for Victim Assistance or PANAV;

(c) A National Community Based Rehabilitation Program (PNRBC) is in the process of being validated;

(d) In last two years, 85 mine victims including 61 men and 24 women were provided with prostheses by a Rehabilitation Center of the Republic of Guinea Bissau, in partnership with the ICRC. Almost the entire target was able to benefit from new equipment. This project will continue in 2018, and it continues to serve as an example of South-South cooperation between two States Parties to the Convention, Senegal and Guinea Bissau;

(e) 18 student mine victims, including one girl, were provided with psychological support, and;

(f) A psychiatric centre in Ziguinchor continued providing free assistance to mine victims with psychological disorders. In addition, mine victim-students benefit from psychological support through the Academic Center for Educational and Vocational Guidance (CAOSP).

40. In response to the Committee's observations concerning the need for disaggregated information by sex- and age, Senegal has stated that victims' needs are not identified according to gender but based on the state of their physical and/or psychologic health and according to their status.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

41. Senegal reported on the existence of regional and departmental coordination committees being in place in three administrative regions of Casamance to coordinate victim assistance activities. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts to strengthen local capacities.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)

42. Senegal reported that representatives of mine victims' organisations participate in all consultations in relation to victim assistance and relevant updates and information have been shared with them.

Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)

43. Senegal did not report on specific efforts to remove physical, behavioural or other types of barriers, efforts to expand quality services in rural and remote areas, and activities to raise awareness on the rights of mine victims, in an age- and gender-sensitive manner. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on these matters.

Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)

44. Senegal reported measurable improvements, particularly as related to health care and rehabilitation of mine victims, and enhancement of victim assistance to mainstream mechanisms, such as social welfare and health, and it has identified the following challenges:

- (a) seeking additional financial means;
- (b) acquiring quality prostheses;
- (c) psychological support, and;
- (d) economic inclusion and access to income.

45. Senegal reported that in order to ensure a more sustainable programme for mine victims, its victim assistance programme is in need of cooperation and assistance.

46. The Committee encourages Senegal to increase efforts to achieve Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan in lead up to the upcoming Review Conference of the Convention.
