

**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**

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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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Iraq

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Iraq 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

2. Iraq reported 17 casualties in 2017, including 14 men and 3 children including 12 injured and 5 killed in Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Basra and Maysan provinces of Iraq, demonstrating a reduction in the number of registered victims compared to the 27 casualties reported in 2016.

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)

3. The Committee concluded that Iraq was acting upon aspects of Action 15 to increase the availability of services, by providing direct health care, rehabilitation and socio-economic support to over 500 mine victims and persons with disabilities in 2017, as follows:

- 43 mine victims including 42 women and 1 man were provided with jobs by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs;
- 352 mine victims were provided with artificial limbs (252), crutches (43), toilet chair (3), white canes (4), electric wheelchair and other support (1) by the Ministry of Health;
- 10 physical rehabilitation centres around the country benefited from the raw materials, equipment and training courses provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and;
- 106 persons with disabilities were provided with economic and rehabilitation aid by the ICRC.

4. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on these matters, including on efforts to increase accessibility to economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures, disaggregated by gender and age.

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

5. The Committee concluded that Iraq had not reported on efforts to implement Action 12, Action 13, Action 14, Action 15, in particular on efforts to strengthen local capacities and to enhance coordination with subnational entities in order to improve and facilitate assistance to victims, Action 16 or Action 17 of the Maputo Action Plan and would welcome information on these matters.

6. The Committee encourages Iraq 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.

Jordan

7. The Committee welcomes the submission by Jordan 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 Committee's preliminary observations. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

8. The Committee observed that Jordan had not reported on the number of mine casualties on areas under its territory or control for the year 2017.

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

9. Jordan reported that at present there is no system to assess the availability and gaps in services and that referral to services has been facilitated by the victim assistance coordinator of the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR). Jordan also reported that NCDR remains responsible to collect data on new casualties and that NCDR, with limited resources, works to update a needs assessment survey that was previously done on victim assistance and mine action.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

10. The Committee noted that Jordan had integrated victim assistance in its 2015-2020 NCDR National Plan outlining activities in areas of coordination, rehabilitation, and economic reintegration. Jordan has also reported and shared a copy of the 2017 Law (No. 20) on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which guarantees the rights of all persons with disabilities.

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

11. Jordan reported on enhancements in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks relating to the needs and rights of persons with disabilities, including through:

(a) Making victim assistance an integral part of the country's five-year National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities, and;

(b) Including victim assistance in the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as an effort to guarantee the rights of survivors to health care services, rehabilitation, work, and education.

12. Jordan reported that an annual budget of \$200,000 is included in the NCDR's 2015-2020 National Plan for the implementation of victim assistance. In response to the Committee's preliminary observation, Jordan reported that due to lack of funding since 2012, very limited objectives have been achieved in victim assistance.

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)

13. The Committee concluded that Jordan was acting upon aspects of Action 15 by reporting on efforts on health care and rehabilitation and provision of small loans (of \$4,200) in cooperation with Agricultural Fund to create income-generating projects that improve civil mine/ERW (Explosive Remnants of War) victims 'economies. NCDR continues to provide monthly financial support to mine/ERW victims through the Office of the Crown Prince according to the needs and priorities, the report stated. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on the number of mine/ERW victims that have benefited from assistance, disaggregated by gender and age.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

14. Jordan did not report on efforts to increase local capacities and enhance national or sub-national coordination for the implementation of victim assistance. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on these matters.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)

15. Jordan reported that victims had actively participated when the NCDR implemented victim assistance projects. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on participation and inclusion of mine/ERW victims in other relevant programmes and forums.

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

16. Jordan reported that a new prosthetic and orthotic centre was established closer to where victims reside in the northern part of Jordan. The Ministry of Health has provided two ambulances to be used in remote areas, the reported stated. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on awareness-raising efforts.

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

17. Jordan reported a key challenge in lack of funding for victim assistance programme since 2012. The report stated that priorities are to reinforce efforts to increase local capacities and enhance national or sub-national coordination for the implementation of victim assistance. The Committee encourages Jordan to increase efforts to achieve the objectives of Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan, ahead of the upcoming Review Conference.

Somalia

18. The Committee welcomes the submission by Somalia 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

19. Somalia had reported 13 mine casualties in 2017 and in total around 1,000 victims registered. Somalia further reported that the Somalia Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) plans to verify the number of registered victims if funding is secured. The Committee concluded that it welcomes information disaggregated by gender and age of casualties and registered mine victims.

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

20. Somalia had reported that due to lack of funds no victim assistance activity has been implemented. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on Somalia's efforts to mobilize funding for victim assistance.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

21. Somalia did not report time-bound and measurable objectives to implement the Maputo Action Plan's victim assistance commitments. The Committee concluded that the communication of these objectives would be important and may support resource mobilization efforts.

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

22. Somalia reported that SEMA has been working on the adoption of legislation by parliament during its upcoming session, following which SEMA will be provided with an earmarked budget. The Committee concluded that it would welcome more information concerning the legislation and the expected dedicated budget whether that will be intended only for victim assistance or for all activities of SEMA.

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

23. The Committee concluded that Somalia had not reported on efforts to implement Action 15 – 17 of the Maputo Action Plan and would welcome information on these matters.

24. Somalia reported that lack of resources as a major challenge hindering the implementation of victim assistance activities. The Committee concluded that Somalia should develop a resource mobilization plan for victim assistance. The Committee encourages Somalia to report on improvements made in victim assistance, including through other ministries and institutions in the country, and to increase efforts to meet the objectives of Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan by the next Review Conference of the Convention in 2019.

South Sudan

25. The Committee welcomes the submission by South Sudan 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

26. South Sudan reported 25 accidents which have injured 50 and killed eight people in 2017, which represents 13 more casualties compared to 2016. These casualties occurred in the states of Western Bahr El Ghazal (4), Upper Nile (5), Northern Bahr El Ghazal (6), Eastern Equatoria (5), Unity (8), Jonglei (13) and Central Equatoria (17). The Committee concluded that it would welcome information disaggregated by sex and age.

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

27. South Sudan reported on the financial challenges that the National Mine Action Authority, Ministries of Gender and Health, and civil society organizations face in relation to victim assistance implementation, affecting provisions of medical care, referrals, and socio-economic inclusion supports, and that poverty has forced landmine survivors and persons with disabilities to beg on the streets, and even result to occurrences of “death” among the victims.

28. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on existing or new requirements for disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction activities needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and to refer victims to existing services, where possible.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

29. South Sudan did not report on efforts to establish time-bound and measurable objectives in order to address the challenges mentioned under Action 12.

30. In 2017 South Sudan had reported that the passing of the draft national disability policy to protect all persons with disability was delayed by the national parliament of South Sudan until 2016 and it had hindered implementation of the Maputo Action Plan. The Committee concluded that it would welcome an update in this regard.

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

31. The Committee concluded that South Sudan had not reported on efforts to implement Action 13 – Action 17 of the Maputo Action Plan and would welcome information on these matters.

32. The Committee concluded that South Sudan is acting upon its commitments under Action 18, by reporting on major challenges and priorities in the field of victim assistance and by calling for cooperation and assistance, as follows:

- Activities of the National Mine Action Authority, Ministry of Gender, Ministry of health, civil society organizations on victim assistance are hindered by financial challenges;

- Despite the fact that ICRC is supporting rehabilitation in South Sudan, there is no proper medical care especially for those that need to be treated outside of South Sudan;
- Efforts to advance social and economic inclusion and empowerment of mine victims remain inadequate;
- The coordination forum has become very small as most of the organizations are not operational anymore;
- Landmine victims and persons with disabilities experience “death” as a result of poverty;
- Landmine victims and persons with disabilities beg on the streets for survival;
- National organizations lack funding to implement their activities, and to participate in relevant planning and decision makings, and;
- South Sudan appeals for assistance and funding for vocational training of mine victims and persons with disabilities in order to enable them to work, to compete in business sector, and to be able to generate income for their families.

33. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on these matters, including efforts to formulate challenges and priorities into time-bound and measurable plan of action, in advance of the upcoming Review Conference.

Sudan

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

Mine Casualties

35. Sudan reported 37 casualties in 2017, making it a total of 2,101 mines and explosive remnants of war victims registered, with 1,498 injured and 603 killed including 1,424 male, 175 female and 530 children. Disaggregated information on 490 victims is not available.

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

36. Sudan had reported on an established system for a regular data collection on mine and ERW victims and following the collection and refinement of data they are entered into National Mine Action Centre’s (NMAC) database (Information management system for mine action (IMSMA)) and made available for planning purposes. The latest national mine victims’ survey, however, was conducted in over ten years ago through 2007 Landmine Impact Survey. The Committee concluded that it would welcome addition information on the system in place for regular data collection.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

37. Sudan reported on the existence of a Victim Assistance Strategy valid until 2019. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts by Sudan to review the implementation of the strategy and develop a new strategy.

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

38. Sudan is acting upon its commitments under Action 14 by reporting, as follows:

(a) NMAC has been working closely with relevant ministries, and support strategies on education, higher education, health, labour and economic empowerment and social security on persons with disabilities including mine survivors;

(b) NMAC has aligned its activities with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities (CRPD), including through working with the National Council of Disabled People (NCDP) which oversees the implementation of the CRPD;

(c) In spite of limited services available, all mine and ERW victims have been granted equal opportunities to access services provided by the government including those made available by the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) and other humanitarian organisations;

(d) 5 per cent of jobs at governmental institutions are allocated to persons with disabilities by Labour Law;

(e) As noted in its 2017 conclusions, the Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on the number of persons with disabilities, including mine victims, that have benefited from the Labour Law.

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 Sudan was implementing aspects of Action 15 to increase the availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services and socio-economic opportunities, as follows:

(a) The Victim Assistance Strategy 2016-2019 continued to be implemented with objectives to improve data collection, enhance services to affected areas, promote psychological support, improve economic inclusions, promote coordination and strengthen laws and policies;

(b) Association for Aid and Relief Japan (AAR Japan), in collaboration with Friends of Peace & Development Organization (FPDO), has assisted 60 mine victims by providing assistive devices, supports for socio-economic inclusion, income generation and psychosocial aid in Kassala, an eastern state in Sudan;

(c) FPDO advanced socio-economic integration of 20 beneficiaries including by providing them with assistive devices and psychosocial support, with funding provided by Italy;

(d) Rehab and economic assistance such as prosthetic limbs, mobility aids and micro-economic projects were established in the affected states (Kassala, North Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan);

(e) JASMAR had started assisting 88 beneficiaries in terms of psychosocial support, physical rehabilitation, socio-economic and income generation in Blue Nile and South Kordofan and aimed at supporting 50 victims and their families through health insurance service, and;

(f) NMUMAD has assisted 20 beneficiaries in North Darfur state to advance their socio-economic integration, funded by United Nations - African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur - Ordnance Disposal Office (UNAMID-ODO).

40. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on these efforts, disaggregating support by sex and age.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

41. Sudan reported on efforts such as holding workshops on project management and capacity building of civil society organisations with a focus on service delivery as well as on active coordination system in place that held monthly coordination meetings with stakeholders in addition to a quarterly coordination meeting held between National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) and NCDP.

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

42. Sudan reported on efforts to raise awareness on, and advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities, and efforts such as working with SRCS to enhance services in remote and affected areas. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on effort to remove barriers, such as removing physical barriers.

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

43. Sudan did not report on efforts to implement Action 16 of the Maputo Action Plan. The Committee concluded that it welcomes information in this regard.

44. Sudan reported on the challenges in providing services, as follows:

- The fact that most of the victims inhabit or move to the rural, remote areas;
- The tough geography and harsh topography of the affected areas;
- The influence of the indigenous customs and traditions that sometimes reversely impact the attainment of objectives, and;
- The lack of adequate support to attain the objectives.

45. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on measurable improvements in the lives of mine victims including in areas of psychological support and social and economic inclusion and would encourage Sudan to increase efforts to achieve the victim assistance commitments of the Maputo Action Plan by the 2019 Review Conference.
