

To The Presidency of the Mine Ban Convention  
H.E Osman Abufatima Adam Mohammed,  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Sudan to the UN in Geneva.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen

**Statement on Victim Assistance Implementation South Sudan.**

Accept my highest appreciation to participate on the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the state parties that has started from 16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> November 2020. South Sudan is a state party to the convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and their Destruction. South Sudan is one of the state party that has recorded high number of landmine/ERW Victims / survivors.

The progress made on Victims Assistance to fulfill the convention obligations from South Sudan are as follows.

- South Sudan has continued to record increase on the number of mine/ERW accident, in total there are 5,116 mine and ERW victims recorded from 2011-2020, 3,718 injured and 1,398 are killed. And there are 1,521 men, 241 women, 594 boys and 123 girls and 1,239 not known survivors. And there are 463 men, 113 women, 195 boys and 54 girls and 573 not known victims killed by mine/ERW.
- The Ministry of Gender child and social welfare continued to take lead to oversee and coordinate victim assistance program and National mine action authority with other stakeholders in close collaboration.
- South Sudan has finalized its national disability action plan with support from EU through ISU. Waiting for the council of Ministers approval. When launched it will be used as a resource mobilization tool in line with Oslo action #2. The implementation of NDAP will enable South Sudan contributes to Oslo Action #33- # 41.
- Efforts are in place to complete the ratification process of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the head of specialized committee on human right at the national legislative Assembly updated the rectification document and pass it for approval.
- Ministry of Gender Child and Social Welfare which is the lead agency for persons with disability as well as the leading agency on gender equality, social inclusion, women's empowerment and social protection component in disaster and disaster risk management policy according Oslo action # 40. They ensured availability of women, persons with disability as key stakeholders in any assessment and they take part to help identify their needs and their participation in decision making that concerns their lives.
- They are also responsible to ensure data are disaggregated on gender, age and vulnerability in any disaster assessments.

- And the ministry also ensures assistance and protection for extreme vulnerable persons such as persons with disability, widows, child headed household, single mothers, HIV/AIDS positive (chronic sickness) persons, GBV survivors female headed households and orphans.
- The MGCSW as the lead agency recommended all government stakeholder to mainstream disability program in their agency programs and reflect it in the annual budget to support the implementation of this plan.
- The MGCSW will further lobby for financial support from the government to consider allocating funding for the OPDs capacity development as they contribute to facilitate the service delivery and social protection grants to all PWDs.
- The MGCSW recommends all INGOs and NNGOs to mainstream disability to their programs activities and allocate cost to support the implementation of the plan.
- For the disability service providing organization should align their activities to the NDAP and seeks donor support through their annual budgets to increase services delivery to rural hard to reach states where a huge number of PWDs including mine survivors live.

### **Challenges facing Victim Assistance implementation**

- Victim Assistance pillar has never been implemented well compared to the other pillar of the mine action. Concentration where made to meet the clearance deadline hence prioritizing clearance and risk Education all these past years in South Sudan.
- The wide spread of COVID 19 pandemic has limit most activities because of the need to prioritize preventive measure to protect human suffering globally.
- South Sudan lack capacities for VA expert working on Victim Assistance in the Country.
- The majority of the PWDs lack social economic support to create employment they turn to be street beggars.
- Nonetheless conflict still continue in other parts of the country affecting PWDs.

In conclusion Victim Assistance pillar continued to be less funded in South Sudan there is need to increase funding to allow us implement the Oslo action plan and the national disability plan of action. The government will continue to ensure legal framework are in place (laws, policies ,

standards, procedures) to prevent , protect support the needs and rights of all persons with disability. We would like to take this opportunity to appreciate all the donors /international non-governmental actors that have been funding Victim Assistance program in South Sudan. We urge all international community to continue funding Victim Assistance program to enable us achieve inclusive development where there is no discrimination, barrier, communication challenges erected by the society towards PWDs in South Sudan.

Thank you

Victim Assistance Coordinator  
South Sudan