



South Sudan National Victim Assistance and Disability Stakeholder Dialogue

Meeting the Needs of Mine Victims

17-19 July 2019

Crown Hotel, Juba, South Sudan

Introduction

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention obliges States Parties to “provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims.” As a State Party to the Convention, South Sudan is one of 30 States Parties that has declared having a responsibility to assist a significant number of mine victims in areas under its jurisdiction or control. Victim Assistance (VA) efforts aim to provide assistance, in particular by recognising the rights and needs of landmine survivors, affected families and communities.

Anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) have affected the lives and livelihoods of the people of South Sudan for too long. In 2018, 56 persons were injured/killed in ten different states; unfortunately, more people continue to fall victims to mines or other ERW. According to the South Sudan National Disability and Inclusion Policy, there are at least 5.1% South Sudanese living with disabilities with 21% of these impairments caused by war/conflict-related incidents. Access to services including rehabilitation, employment and education and large disparities with persons without disabilities is among the most prominent challenges facing persons with disabilities in the country, according to the Policy.

To fulfil its Convention obligations towards mine victims, the National Mine Action Authority and the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare that co-coordinate South Sudan’s Victim Assistance Working Group, aspire to enhance efforts including by developing an inclusive national plan of action to address the needs of persons with disabilities including mine survivors as also recommended by the National Disability and Inclusion Policy of South Sudan.

The Convention’s provisions on victim assistance require States Parties to put a robust implementation support mechanism in place including the designation of a focal point, coordination body, plan of action and the capacity to assess, review, monitor and report victim assistance efforts in order to meet the rights and needs of mine victims in a sustainable fashion. In doing so, the States Parties have recognised the importance of integrating victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks related to the rights of persons with disabilities, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction.

To demonstrate the European Union (EU) and Member States’ commitment to human security, the EU Council adopted Decision 2017/1428 to support efforts on the part of the Convention’s States Parties to among others, implement victim assistance aspects of the *Maputo Action Plan*. Convention’s Implementation Support Unit (ISU) – mandated to support States Parties’ efforts to implement Convention obligations – serves as the technical implementer of the Decision.

Objectives of the National Victim Assistance Stakeholder Dialogue: “*Meeting the Needs of Mine Victims*”

- To kick-start the development of South Sudan’s first inclusive National Victim Assistance and Disability Action Plan and facilitate the implementation of victim assistance obligations under the Convention, and related action plan, and National Disability and Inclusion Policy.

- To provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to create momentum in victim assistance by reaffirming commitments to step up efforts in meeting the needs and protect the rights of mine survivors, affected families and communities as well as persons with disabilities in South Sudan.

Expected Outcomes and Follow Ups

- Outcome document outlining timelines and recommendations for consideration of the Government of South Sudan, and proposal for follow-up support. Following the Dialogue, the Co-coordinator of the Victim Assistance Working Group will lead the process of drafting an inclusive nationwide victim assistance and disability action plan, using recommendations stemming from the Dialogue. Such an inclusive plan could facilitate South Sudan's "dialogue and cooperation with donors and implementing agencies", as called for by the Decision. Through the EU Council Decision, the ISU is in a position to offer follow-up support in response to recommendations contained in the outcome document (e.g., regional meeting(s), coordination mechanism, project proposal, drafting of plans/strategies, etc.).
- Progress in meeting VA commitments under the *Maputo Action Plan*, in particular Actions 13, 14 and 18, including reporting "time-bound and measurable objectives it seeks to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society". South Sudan would be in a position to better communicate to States Parties including through its annual transparency report "enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and on budgets allocated for their implementation."
- Increase understandings on how stakeholders can support South Sudan's continued efforts to implement victim assistance aspects of the Convention. In particular, how donors and partners can participate and/or cooperate with South Sudan to achieve the aim of addressing the needs of landmine victim and survivors.

Format of the Dialogue

- The Dialogue will be interactive; following brief presentations of overviews of progress and challenges and hearing about best practices and experts' perspectives, participants will be divided into small groups. The groups will seek to identify needs, challenges and the way forward in victim assistance and to recommend ideas for enhancing the integration of victim assistance into broader policies and programmes including emerging opportunities created by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The Co-coordinator of the Victim Assistance Working Group, namely the National Mine Action Authority and the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare will co-chair the Dialogue, with support of the ISU as the technical facilitator of the Dialogue.

Participants

- Around 70 policy experts and practitioners will be invited to take part in the Dialogue, from various domains including mine action, victim assistance, disability, human rights, gender, development sectors representing mine action authority, relevant national ministries, local authorities from affected states, representatives of survivors and persons with disabilities, national and international organizations including UN agencies involved in victim assistance or disabilities. The EU Delegation to South Sudan and the Presidency of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention along with other international partners of South Sudan will also be invited to attend sessions of the Dialogue.



Programme South Sudan National Victim Assistance and Disability Stakeholder Dialogue Meeting the Needs of Mine Victims	
Day 1 Wednesday 17 July 09:00 – 16:30	
08:00 – 09:00	Arrival of participants and registration
09:00 – 10:15	<p>Welcome remarks by Ms Mary Kojo Ali - Director for Social Protection and Ag/DG for Gender & Child Welfare, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare</p> <p>Official opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Roda Atianasy, Chairperson, South Sudan Network of Women with Disability ▪ Mr John Malith, South Sudan Action Network on Small Arms, member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines ▪ H.E. Sinead Walsh, Head of the European Union Delegation to South Sudan ▪ Hon. Jurkuch Barach Jurkuch, Chairperson National Mine Action Authority ▪ Ms Esther Ikere Eluzai, Undersecretary, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare
10:15 – 10:20	Group photo with high level guests
10:20 – 12:30	<p>Session One: Understanding the situation and the place of victim assistance in broader efforts in South Sudan</p> <p>Chair: Ms Mary Kojo Ali, Director General, Social Protection, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare</p> <p><i>Objective: To increase/develop understandings among participants on what victim assistance means in the framework of the Convention and the Maputo Action Plan.</i></p> <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Firoz Alizada, Implementation Support Officer, Victim Assistance Expert, Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit (10 minutes) <p><i>Objective: To identify successes and challenges in victim assistance implementation in Uganda and best practices to integrate it into broader national policies and programmes (turning the Convention’s victim assistance promise into action).</i></p> <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Agnes Nampeera, Senior Rehabilitation Officer, National Community Based Rehabilitation Coordinator, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Development of Uganda (10 minutes)
11:00 – 11:15	Tea/coffee break

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11:15 – 12:30	<p>Session One: Implementation status and challenges in victim assistance including in the context of broader disability policies and programmes in South Sudan</p> <p><i>Objective: To increase common understandings among participants on approaches taken by South Sudan towards victim assistance implementation, major efforts invested and remaining challenges.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNMAS South Sudan (10 minutes) ▪ Ms Joy Gordon, Director General, Inclusive Education, Ministry of Education (15 minutes) ▪ Ms Ester Ikere Eluzai, Undersecretary, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Co-coordinator of Working Group on Victim Assistance (WGVA) (30 minutes)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 15:30	<p>Session Two: Identifying key challenges and recommend SMART Objectives¹</p> <p>Chair: Ms Teddy Akello, Programme Director, NMAA</p> <p><i>Objective: To enhance understandings among participants on the importance and complexities in data collection and critical role of rehabilitation in victim assistance.</i></p> <p>Expert presenters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Loren Persi, Coordinator, Survivor Rights and Assistance & Casualties Recording, Landmine and Cluster Munition, International Campaign to Ban Landmines, to present on data collection and information management and their value to inform national policies and programmes (15 minutes) ▪ Ms Ajaya Sen, Physical Rehabilitation Program Manager, ICRC South Sudan, to present on rehabilitation and health care as relates to mine victims and persons with disabilities in South Sudan (15 minutes) <p><i>Breakout sessions: to identify challenges, gaps around the following pillars of victim assistance, subsequently develop SMART¹ objectives to overcome identified challenges.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data collection and information management 2. Emergency and continuing medical care 3. Physical rehabilitation, including physiotherapy, prosthetics and assistive devices
15:30 – 16:30	Groups report and discussion – recap of day one.

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¹ SMART stands for Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic/Relevant and Time Bound

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Day 2 Thursday 18 July 08:30 – 17:00	
08:30 – 09:00	Day two overview.
09:00 – 10:30	<p>Session Two: Identifying key challenges and SMART Objectives</p> <p>Chair: Mr Mauot Luis, Usratuna Rehabilitation Centre, OVCI South Sudan</p> <p><i>Objectives: To deepen understandings on multidisciplinary approaches to address psychosocial, psychological and socio-economic needs of mine survivors and persons with disabilities in scarce resource contexts. To increase awareness on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and efforts made in this regard in Rwanda.</i></p> <p>Expert presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Rose AWATE, Humanity & Inclusion, to present on social and economic inclusion of mine victims and persons with disabilities (12 minutes) ▪ Mr Loren Persi, International Campaign to Ban Landmines to present the CRPD and its complementarities to victim assistance (10 minutes) <p>Breakout sessions: to identify challenges, gaps around the following pillars of victim assistance, subsequently develop SMART objectives in overcoming the identified challenges,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Psychological support including peer support 5. Social and economic inclusion 6. Laws, policies, plans and coordination
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 – 11:30	Groups report to plenary and discussion
11:30 – 12:30	<p>Session Three: Developing concrete actions for every identified objective and propose responsibilities to respective agencies</p> <p>Chair: Ms Margret Mathiang, UNDP, Juba</p> <p>Expert presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Christian Blind Mission (CBM) South Sudan (10 minutes) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data collection and information management 2. Emergency and continuing medical care 3. Physical rehabilitation, including physiotherapy, prosthetics and assistive devices
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 15:00	<p>Groups continue their work</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Psychological support including peer support 5. Social and economic inclusion 6. Laws, policies, plans and coordination
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee break
15:15 – 17:00	Groups report to plenary and discussion Closing and information on a field trip

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Programme South Sudan National Victim Assistance and Disability Stakeholder Dialogue Meeting the Needs of Mine Victims	
Day 3 Friday 19 July 10:00 – 15:30	
10:00 – 12:30	<p align="center">Field trip to the OVCI Rehabilitation Centre in Juba.</p> <p>Objective: The visit will provide an opportunity for participants of the Dialogue to interact with rehabilitation professionals and to further learn about rehabilitation activities provided to persons with disabilities including those acquired disabilities by mines and explosive remnants of war.</p>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 14:45	<p>Reflections on the field trip (15 minutes)</p> <p>Interaction with the international victim assistance and disability rights experts</p>
14:30 – 15:30	<p>Closing session: Presenting the conclusion of the National Victim Assistance and Disability Stakeholder Dialogue; next steps towards developing a national victim assistance and disability action plan, and way forward.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Robert Lado, representative of persons with disabilities/landmine survivors ▪ Mr Geoffrey Duke, South Sudan Action Network on Small Arms, member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines ▪ A representative of the Ministry of Health ▪ Mr Richard Boulter, Senior Programme Manager, UNMAS South Sudan ▪ Hon. Jurkuch Barach Jurkuch, Chairperson, National Mine Action Authority ▪ Ms Esther Ikere Eluzai, Undersecretary, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare