



National Victim Assistance Stakeholder Dialogue: **Building on Progress**

10-11 October 2018

Munyonyo Commonwealth Resort, Kampala

Background

Uganda, a State party to [the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention](#) is one of [29 States](#) which has reported having responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors. The Government of Uganda is committed to improving the lives of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities, as reiterated in Uganda's 2018 Commitments to Disability Inclusion. Uganda's Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) along with stakeholders have invested significant efforts to promote the rights and address the needs of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities including by developing the 2006 National Policy on Disability. With technical support provided by the Convention's Implementation Support Unit (ISU), Uganda developed the 2007 Comprehensive Plan of Action on Victim Assistance to guide it in responding to the needs of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities. Since 2012 – when Uganda declared completion of its mine clearance obligation under the Convention – and until last month, Uganda had not reported on efforts to implement victim assistance commitments. Challenges in data collection, monitoring mechanism and constraints in financial resources have been affecting victim assistance implementation. Uganda, however, remains committed to addressing those challenges. In line with Convention's commitments, Uganda has continued using the twin-track approach of affirmative action to address the needs of landmine survivors in broader disability and social services contexts and intends to increase efforts in this regard.

National stakeholder dialogue objectives

In 2017, the Council of the European Union approved [Decision 2017/1428](#), to support States Parties currently implementing victim assistance efforts to integrate the rights of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities into wider national frameworks. The EU support includes hosting national stakeholder dialogues where landmine affected States, partners and donors can meet to advance these efforts.

The *Victim Assistance National Stakeholders Dialogue: Building on Progress* would seek to support Uganda in reviewing and aligning the 2006 National Policy on Disability with CRPD provisions and victim assistance requirements under the *Maputo Action Plan (MAP)*. [MAP](#) is the five-year plan of action of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. The national stakeholder dialogue would also provide an opportunity for victim assistance and disability stakeholders in Uganda to identify tangible actions to implement the National Policy on Disability. Upgrading the Comprehensive Plan of Action on Victim Assistance into a broader inclusive plan of action could serve as a roadmap to implement CRPD and the AP Mine Ban Convention's victim assistance provisions.

Annotated Programme	
Day one Wednesday 10 October 08:00-17:30	
08:00-08:30 Registration	
08:30 – 09:00 Official opening and Dialogue’s objectives	
<i>Understanding the role that victim assistance plays when responding to the needs of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities in Uganda.</i>	
Official opening remarks:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Pius Bigirimana, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) ▪ H.E. Attilio Pacifici, Ambassador, Head of Delegation, Delegation of the European Union to Uganda ▪ H.E. Susan Eckey, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Uganda ▪ Ms. Margaret Arach Orech, Head of the Ugandan Landmine Survivors Association (ULSA)/ICBL Ambassador 	
Session One 09:00 - 10:00 Understanding Victim Assistance Obligations and Implementation Status Plenary	
<i>Understanding victim assistance in the framework of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention; key principles attached to it, globally and in Uganda from the perspectives of experts from the MGSD, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and the ISU.</i>	
10:00-10:30 Coffee break	
Session One 10:30 – 12:30 A Strategic and Inclusive Approach to Victim Assistance and Disabilities Plenary	
<i>Learning from similar contexts abroad, including relevant best practices in legal and policy frameworks and enhancing understandings in disability rights with presenters from Humanity & Inclusion, the Landmine Monitor/International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and the Ugandan Landmine Survivors Association.</i>	
12:30-13:30 Lunch	
13:30 – 15:15 Breakout session - A	
<i>Determining key challenges that hinder assistance to victims and identifying untapped opportunities including in the realm of implementation support mechanisms in Uganda.</i>	
<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 4. Social and economic inclusion 5. Inclusive education 6. The establishment, enforcement and implementation of relevant laws and public policies 	
15:15-15:30 Coffee break	
15:30 – 17:00 Breakout session – A continues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reports from breakout sessions on challenges and opportunities (summary only) by all groups ▪ Brief plenary discussion on findings of the breakout sessions 	
17:00 – 17:30 Evaluation and wrap up	

Day two Thursday 11 October 08:30-17:30
08:30 – 08:45 Recap day 1, introduction day 2 by ISU and MGLSD
08:45 – 09:15 Session Two continues
<i>Sharing pragmatic ideas for embedding victim assistance into broader development frameworks and enhancing an inclusive approach to disabilities.</i>
09:15 – 10:30 Breakout session – B
<i>Identifying gaps in victim assistance implementation in Uganda and providing feedback to the MGLSD for further victim assistance and CRPD implementation in Uganda.</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the major gaps in victim assistance and CRPD implementation in Uganda? 2. What changes would you see as essential in the implementation mechanism in Uganda to realise the objectives of new policy and action plan on disabilities and victim assistance? 3. What creative, innovative and realistic ideas would you suggest to the MGLSD to further efforts on victim assistance and CRPD implementation in Uganda?
<i>Continues after break...</i>
<i>10:30 – 11:00 Break</i>
11:00 – 12:30 Breakout session – B continues
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Are there any untapped resources and opportunities that you would recommend to the MGLSD to consider mobilizing to promote the rights and needs of persons with disabilities and landmine victims? 5. What are the three top priorities you would like to see addressed by the new National Policy on Disability, and why?
12:30 – 13:30 Lunch
13:30 – 15:00 Breakout session – B continues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reports from breakout sessions (summary only) by all groups. ▪ Brief plenary discussion on findings of the breakout sessions.
<i>15:00 – 15:30 Break</i>
15:30-17:00- Closing Session Ways Forward Plenary
<i>Understanding Uganda’s partners’ and donors’ perspectives in assistance to victims, sustained commitments to mine survivors and persons with disabilities. Providing information concerning follow up on the outcomes of the Dialogue.</i>
<i>Closing remarks:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development ▪ National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda
17:00– 17:30 Evaluation and wrap up