



**MINISTRY OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
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REPORT ON THE LANDMINE VICTIM ASSISTANCE

August 2018

1.0: INTRODUCTION

Government of Uganda is committed to improving the lives of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities. This commitment has been manifested through the ratification and domestication of the Human Rights International Instruments such as the Convention on the Anti-Personnel (AP) Mine Ban Treaty and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. These were ratified on the 25th February, 1999, coming into force in August 1999 and on 25th September 2008 respectively.

2.0 PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 Besides the International Obligations, at the National Level, the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda recognizes the rights of Persons with Disabilities to respect and human dignity. It provides for affirmative action in favour of those marginalized on the basis of disability.

2.2 Some other major laws and policies were put in place to promote and protect the rights of all Persons with Disabilities including the landmine survivors. They include; the Persons with Disability Act, (2006); the Equal Opportunities Commission Act, (2007); the Local Government Act, (2007); the National Council for Disability Act (2003); the National Policy on Disability in Uganda (2006); and the National Social Protection Policy, (2015) among others.

2.3. In order to protect and promote the rights of land mine survivors, who are estimated to be about 2000 persons, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development put in place a Comprehensive Plan on Landmine Victim Assistance (2008-2012). This Plan was a framework to respond to the needs of landmine survivors, other Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons who are in emergency and conflict situations to enable them participate and re-integrate into the development process.

Further, it was to guide the Ministry and other stakeholders to assess the extent to which objectives of the plan are being met. In line with the Maputo Action Plan, Uganda has continued to use the twin track approach of affirmative action through

the implementation of the Plan and mainstreaming issues on landmine survivors in the broader context of disability and social services.

2.4. The Government of Uganda also implements National Programmes specially targeting and benefiting Persons with Disabilities including those that were affected by landmines. For example, the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Programme is the flagship programme by the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development driving social norm change and broadly addressing economic empowerment, medical attention (rehabilitation) as well as social inclusion across the country with current Government funding in 26 districts and a plan to scale-up.

2.5. During the Financial Years of 2016/2017 and 2017/2018, a total of 156 PWDS in Kasese district received assistive devices and out of them, 30 were Landmine Survivors. In the same way, 15 Landmine Survivors were assessed and referred for rehabilitation and other medical services.

2.6. The Special Grant for Persons with Disabilities Program on the other hand, provides seed capital for income generating activities for Persons with Disabilities and their caregivers through a group approach. This program covers the entire country, including the landmines districts. Currently, about 9280 on average benefit from the grant every year, including the landmine survivors.

2.7. In addition, some mainstream programmes such as the Senior Citizens Grant (SCG) are significantly benefiting persons with disabilities. For example, the Expanding Social Protection-(ESPII) programme data, shows a total of 111,132 Older Persons with Disabilities (41% of whom have severe disabilities) are benefiting from the regular cash transfers to senior citizens. Some of the Landmine districts that have benefited from this program include: Kasese, Gulu, Yumbe, Koboko, Agago, and Pader.

2.8. In the same way, Persons with Disabilities constitute 7.6% and 2.8% of total beneficiaries under the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) and the Youth Livelihoods Programme (YLP) respectively (Programs' reports 2017). These two programs are also covering the entire country.

2.9. More recently, the Government of Uganda presented its commitments to disability inclusion at the First World Disability Summit which took place in the United Kingdom in July 2018. Hosting the CBR World conference will therefore be another opportunity for the country to amplify its achievements and reaffirm its commitments to disability inclusion

2.10. There is an effort to continue tackling other issues affecting all Persons with Disabilities such as Stigma and Discrimination in all mainstream community development interventions by Government and civil society. These among others include: Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights awareness; Universal Primary Education; Universal Secondary Education, Technical and Skills training in the different Government Training Institutions.

2.11. Currently, there are four Disability Rehabilitation Institutions in Uganda located in the Central, Western and Northern Regions of the country, which train between 180 and 200 Youth with Disabilities in employable skills every year. The Government Universities and other Tertiary Institutions have a quota system, where 64 Persons with Disabilities are fully sponsored by Government every academic year.

3.0 CHALLENGES FACED

3.1 However, despite of the achievements above, there are still some gaps in implementation of policies and the relevant legal provisions, as well as guidelines, to promote socio- economic opportunities that benefit Persons with Disabilities in the community. The programs that specifically target Persons with Disabilities are limited both in scope and scale due to limited financing and the mechanisms for delivery of these programmes.

3.2. There is limited data on landmine victims and survivors because the focus has been on having data on all Persons with Disabilities without disaggregating it to identify the landmine victims. This therefore calls for a survey to guide the specific interventions for them.

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3.3. The process of reviewing the National Policy on Disability in Uganda, (2006) has not been completed to align it with International Disability Rights standards, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the AP Mine Ban Convention, among others.

3.4. Measures to effectively implement and monitor the existing laws and policies are inadequate mainly due to limited funding, as well as the negative attitudes, Stigma and Discrimination attached to disability by some duty bearers.