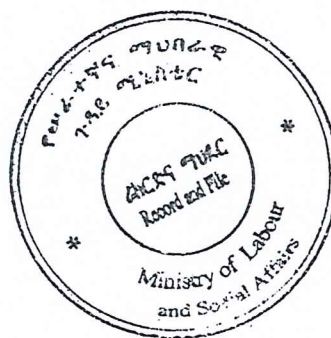


Ethiopian Report on victim assistance for fiscal year of 2016/17



1. Introduction

The government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is undertaking various favorable conditions by developing action oriented policies and programmes to enable persons with disabilities to be active participants in all spheres of life and deeply involved to put in place the issues of persons with disabilities; victims of land mines included in the development agenda of the country. The main government organ responsible for Persons with disabilities is the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. In the regions, the responsibility falls under the Bureaus of Labour and Social Affairs. By and large, the Federal office focus on legislation, policy and coordination matters, while service delivery is shared by the regional bureaus. On top of this, NGOs, UN agencies and DPOs also constitute the institutional environment.

Following the provision on the 1995 Ethiopian constitution, various sectoral policies were drafted. Particularly Social Protection, Education, Health policies were developed to have clearly outlined policy directions in favor of PWD. Article 41 and 91 of the constitution particularly emphasizes on the need to allocate resources for supporting persons with disabilities and other people with special needs. The most significant declarations and major policy actions includes the Social Protection Policy and the ten years National Plan of Action on Disability (2011-2021), the National Physical Rehabilitation Strategy and its implementation modalities, Proclamation No. 568/2008 to promote the rights of Persons with disabilities to Employment, Building Proclamation No. 624 /2009 to support persons with disabilities to have better access to public buildings and Proclamation No. 916/2016 of the definition of powers of the executive organs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. In the Proclamation No. 916/2016, it is proclaimed that each ministry shall have the powers and duties to create, within its powers condition where persons with disabilities benefit equal opportunities and full participation.

With these institutional and policy arrangements, the government is committed and deeply involved to improve the livelihood of Persons with disabilities victims of land mines included through various interventions established within the context of the country's second phase Growth and Transformation Plan (2nd GTP) and taking into account the internationally agreed development goals; including those contained in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Currently, the country is exploiting the opportunity of promoting and facilitating the implementation of the UNCRPD by giving due consideration in the elaboration of the development agenda beyond 2015.



In fact, the Ethiopian government has been moderately prompt in adopting international standards and reflecting those in the domestic policies and strategies. The problem lies mainly on the capacity of institutions and organization to execute policies and plans on the ground. This condition was repeatedly reported to the international communities where Ethiopia has got the opportunity. Likewise, the following pages discuss some of the major achievements Ethiopia has registered in the last couple of years in relation to improving the right of Persons with disabilities in general and victims of land mines in particular.

First of all we would like to pronounce that Ethiopia has no national victim assistance specific programme. So far, land mine victims in Ethiopia are addressed with other persons with disabilities. Now, it is realized and taken as a necessity that disaggregated data of victims of land mines should be incorporated in the forthcoming Ethiopian National Population and Housing census of 2018. From the result of the census we would be able to have the general status, particular interventions and measures taken in the country in relation to victims of land mine.

The overall development policy and strategy and more particularly the social protection system of Ethiopian focuses on protecting the rights of Persons with disabilities and creating enabling environment to benefit from equal opportunities and full participation. Social protection initiatives focus on addressing poverty, vulnerability, marginalization and exclusion including Persons with disabilities as well rehabilitating the victims. The social protection programs are government led and implemented by government, civil society organizations, and communities. Programs that aim at benefiting Persons with disabilities need to ensure their dignity, freedom and social status. The programs that aim to prevent disabilities involve providing education and training, rehabilitation services and ensuring equal access and opportunities for Persons with disabilities. Measures that strengthen positive attitudinal and behavioral changes of communities with regard to disability will be taken. As earlier, Again, Ethiopia has informed both to the State party and to intercessional victim assistance meetings that the Ethiopian laws prohibit marginalization of land mine victims and other Persons with disabilities in socio-economic development such as education, health, employment, public services, legal provisions and political rights and the like. They are treated equal in their socio-economic and political participation. The government encourages inclusion of Persons with disabilities in all activities of life. With this considerate in mind, based on the request, the following progress report for fiscal year of 2016/17 has been prepared.



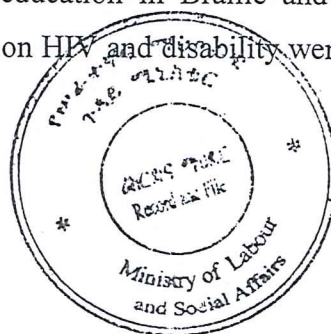
Coordination

As a prerequisite of effective policy implementation, inter-ministerial and inter- sectoral coordinating mechanisms was established consisting of GOV't and NGOs, civil society organizations. Aside from the intervention being implemented by government institutions and development partners, there are eight national associations of Persons with disabilities in the country who voice for their right and exercise their potential. An umbrella organization by the name of 'Federation of National Association of Persons with disabilities' was created to coordinate their activities. There are also veteran Associations whose members are direct victims of landmines. They are organized at a regional level particularly those regions who were highly affected during the times of last protracted civil wars. The *Tigray* Disabled Veteran Association (TDVA) is the biggest one where its members are supported with various programmes including PO services Vocational training and placement, income generating ventures etc.

A national plan of Action on Human Right has been issued by the Ethiopian Council of Ministers and House of people's representative's in order to promote the full realization of all human rights in the country. The NPA on human rights has devoted a separate chapter/thematic area regarding Rights of vulnerable sector of the population including rights of women, Children, persons with disabilities and people affected by HIV/AIDS. A national steering committee composed of high government officials Chaired by the Federal General Attorney has been established. The steering committee is currently implementing the plan at federal and regional level. As a member of the national steering committee, MoLSA is involved in this exercise to promote the human right of PWDs including land mine survivors

Health

Expansion of universal and quality health care services was one of the main strategic themes of the health sector during the GTP 2. In line with this general direction, with the involvement and active participation of the community and with the support of Health Extension Program (HEP), the government has given particular focus for the improvement of quality services based on the standards and preparation of specialists for primary health prevention. The Ministry of Health has also provided five year SPM strategy that includes disability, Universal access Anti-HIV/AIDS services, Training materials on peer to peer education in Braille and circulated through the federation and disability association, Brochures on HIV and disability were prepared



and circulated. Moreover, a training of trainers was organized for 140 representatives of DPOs in advocacy within the context of HIV/AIDS prevention and control and other basic health issues. In 2016/17, more than 778 Persons with disabilities out of which 178 of them are victim's assistance received free medical treatments. In the same year, the Federal Ministry of Health has prepared two guidelines to include Persons with disabilities in health service provision. These guidelines are:- National guideline of Physical Rehabilitation in Referral Hospitals/2016/17 and Guideline for disability mainstreaming in Health Sector 2016/17. The National disability mainstreaming guideline in Health Sector focuses on special health needs of Persons with disabilities with particular consideration on physical accessibility of government and private hospitals, clinics, and local health centers.

Education,

The Government of Ethiopia is committed to enhance the special needs education/inclusive education system using different policies, strategies and plans. The Education and Training Policy of Ethiopia 1994 has laid the ground for the development of the education sector as a whole. One of its main objectives has been to provide basic education for all, in recognizing the rights of Persons with disabilities and gifted children to education by stating; **“to enable both the handicapped and the gifted learn in accordance with their potential and needs.”** In the year 2016/17, around 60,000 children with disabilities were enrolled in schools from pre-primary to higher education. The Federal Ministry of Education also launched the ESDP V (2015/16 – 2019/20) that prioritizes equal opportunities and participation for all, with special attention to disadvantaged groups and the delivery of quality education that meets the diverse learning needs of all children, youth and adults. Increases of students with Special Needs Education expand across all levels of education. The objective of the ESDP V is to fully integrate Special Needs Education as one of seven identified cross-cutting issues within the priority programmes. Awareness raising workshop was conducted for 500 education and social development sectors.



Employment

The rights to Employment for persons with disabilities Proclamation No.568/2008 makes null and void any law, practice, customs, attitude and other discriminatory situations that limit equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. As the result of the efforts for employment opportunities for Persons with disabilities, the number of employed Persons with disabilities has been increasing from time to time.

However, it is not easy to get accurate data on how many Persons with disabilities are employed in deferent sectors each year.

Development and poverty reduction

The government of Ethiopia developed **Social protection policy in Dec 2014** which is the first of its kind in the country to address the need and problems of poor, vulnerable and marginalized sector of the population including the various types and degrees of disabilities; mine survivors included. Some of the thematic areas of the policy document ; stated that Increase access to basic services, Promote Productive Safety Net and Promote employment and improve livelihood provision for the poor and vulnerable communities which included Persons with disabilities in general victim assistance in particular / Tigraye and Amhara Regions/. Especially both the Rural and Urban safety net programs were benefited a total of 1.2 million populations which 15 percent they were Persons with disabilities in 2016/17. The food security and disaster reduction program of Ethiopia also gave special attention for poor and vulnerable groups of the population including person with disabilities. Accordingly the program benefited around 1.1 million People with disabilities in year 2016/17. In addition to this the national youth revolving fund /10 billion EB/ which was launched in 2016/17 also gave special consideration to youth with disabilities.



Equal and effective participation;

- ✓ Both the Ethiopian National Plan of Action /NPA/ on Persons with disabilities and Proclamation No 916/2016/17 are focused on the principle of promoting INCLUSION. Specially “The NPA is based on a vision of a fully inclusive Ethiopian society, where children, youth and adults with disabilities, regardless of gender or kind of disability, as well as their parents and families, enjoy the same rights to participate in the same civil, political,

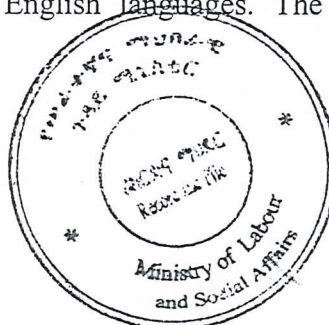


economic, social and cultural spheres and to access the same medical, educational, social services, training, work and leisure opportunities enjoyed by other citizens. In such an inclusive society, people with disabilities are accepted, their abilities are valued, their diversity and independence are recognized, their human rights are protected, and they participate actively in the life and development of their communities and the nation". The NPA is based upon the principles set forth by the UNCRPD and the policy and legal framework of Ethiopian government. Implementation of the NPA is underway and some efforts are being made to mainstream the principles of inclusion in the programme of relevant institutions. All of the eight national DPOs in the country are encouraged to participate in the implementation of the NPA through their representatives in the national and regional committees. Their implementation capacity is being promoted through the provision of government budget and ILO financial support. The proclamation No 916/2016 article 10, entitled Common powers and duties of ministries No.5, It is proclaimed that "Each ministry shall have the powers and duties to create within its powers, conditions whereby persons with disabilities benefit from equal opportunities and participation". Following this proclamation, and as per Article 33 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability /CRPD, a National Coordinating, Evaluation, Monitoring the implementation committee, chaired by MoLSA /focal point was established. Members are drawn from ministries who are given the power and duties indicated above. The ministry has prepared a regulation /directive and issued

Enhance Plans, policies and legal frameworks

Implementing a comprehensive plan of action and ensuring such plan is integrated in broader national policies, plans and legal frame work;

- ✓ Ethiopia's second phase Growth and transformation Plan (GTP 2) has included Persons with disabilities to be beneficiaries in the course of implementation period. According to the plan, It was planned that the number of Persons with disabilities who get physical rehabilitation services will grow from the level of 41,154 in the year 2010 to 95, 642 in the year 2015. In 2011-2012 alone, 47,697 or 83% of Persons with disabilities planned for the year got assistive devices including wheel chairs, prostheses orthotic appliances and physiotherapy services.
- ✓ Recognizing the issue of Persons with disabilities/mine survivors is a question of human right and development, the government of Ethiopia has developed and issued a National Physical Rehabilitation Strategy in Amharic and English languages. The strategy is an



intervention towards a systematic approach to facilitate and promote the expansion of physical rehabilitation services not only in number, but also in quality. Parallel to such services, training of orthopedic technicians and physiotherapists is progressively growing. A national popularization workshop was conducted to make people aware of the strategy thereby play their roles in the implementation.

- ✓ In 2011, Ethiopia has introduced a new private pension proclamation in addition to the former public proclamation (amended) where both proclamations guaranteed privilege to Persons with disabilities land mine survivors.
- ✓ MOLSA has been working to create coordination necessary for expansion of inclusive education and special needs education with the Ministry of Education. A Committee, whose members drawn from the two ministries was established to follow up the implementation of the program. Recently, a memorandum of understanding was prepared and is ready for signature that will accelerate the level of inclusion in education for Persons with disabilities.
- ✓ Based on the Ethiopian Building Code, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between MOLSA and with the then Ministry of Construction and Urban Development to promote physical accessibility in public buildings. The two ministries have established a technical committee to monitor the implementation of the MoU. According to the TOR, the two ministries will jointly organize and conduct workshops on accessibility and the Ethiopian Building Code to effectively implement of the programme.

