

LANDMINE VICTIM ASSISTANCE THE UGANDAN EXPERIENCE

**SOUTH SUDAN NATIONAL VICTIM ASSISTANCE DIALOGUE:
MEETING THE NEEDS OF MINE VICTIMS
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INTRODUCTION

- Landmines and unexploded ordinances (UXOs) affected Northern and West Uganda
- 2,000 Ugandan estimated to have been directly affected by landmines and UXOs, while those that were indirectly affected are much more
- The Effects of the landmines are still felt by communities many years after the conflict ceased.

LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

- Uganda was one of the first countries to ratify the Anti-Personnel Mine Convention in 1999
- In 2007, the Government through MGLSD developed the Comprehensive Plan of Action to address the rights and needs of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities for the period of 2008-2012
- Uganda ratified and domesticated the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with its optional protocol in 2008 without any reservations.

LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

- Besides the International Obligations, at the national level, the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda recognizes the rights of all Persons with Disabilities to respect and human dignity.
- Other major laws and policies on Persons with Disabilities/Landmine Survivors include: the Persons with Disability Act, (2006) ; the Equal Opportunities Commission Act, (2007); the National Policy on Disability in Uganda (2006), the National Social Protection Policy (2015)...
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ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- In line with the Maputo Action Plan, Uganda has continued to practice the twin track approach of affirmative action through the implementation of the Plan and mainstreaming issues of landmine survivors in the broader context of disability and social services provision.
- This is manifested through programs such as the Community Based Rehabilitation Program, which is the leading programme by the MGLSD driving social norm change and broadly addressing economic empowerment, medical attention (rehabilitation) issues as well as social inclusion across the country.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- Vocational training and rehabilitation currently being carried out in five training institutions located in Central, Western, Eastern and Northern Uganda, training between 180 and 200 youth with disabilities.
- The Special Grant for Persons with Disabilities provides seed capital for income generating activities for Persons with Disabilities and their caregivers through a group formation and access approach. This program covers the entire country, including the landmines affected districts.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- In the same way, 6770 Youth with Disabilities (7.6%) of the program beneficiaries and 1000 Women with Disabilities have benefited from the Youth Livelihood Program and Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) respectively,(as per programs' reports 2018).

DATA AND RESEARCH

- The MGLSD in collaboration with Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) 2014 included specific questions targeting PWDs, during the census of 2014. including landmine survivors. The Uganda Functional Difficulties Survey (2017) data Collection Tool integrated some information on Landmine survivors).

MEDICAL SERVICES AND REHABILITATION

- The Uganda health system consists of the district health system (communities, villages - the Community Health Workers or health village teams (VHTs) and HC1s, 11s, 111s, 1Vs and General Hospitals (GH), Regional Referral Hospitals (RRHs) and National Referral Hospitals (NRHs).
- The RRHs and NRHs are semi autonomous while the district health services are managed by Local governments (MOH NHP 2010).
- Ministry of Health (MOH) has upgraded the emergency health care services and developed an ambulance policy and strategy to respond to emergency needs

REHABILITATION SERVICES

- The Goal is to restore maximum functional ability for persons with disabilities through provision of rehabilitation services including provision of appropriate assistive devices
- Under the MOH structure, the ENT and Ophthalmic Clinical Officers are included in the HC1Vs to identify and treat patients with eye and ear impairments and other conditions that may lead to deafness and blindness.
- At the District hospitals the above are included and the posts Physiotherapist (PT), 1 Occupational Therapist (OT) and orthopedic officer were established (OO),



Physiotherapy care in Bilateral Amputee

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

- Adjusting the school system, environment and curriculum
- All learners Accessing Education
- Stake holder collaboration
- Identifying and removing barriers that exclude learners

SDG AND CRPD

- Target number eight of 4th SDG which is to “Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, nonviolent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all”
- the CRPD 2008 where government committed to put in place an inclusive education system at all levels of education.

CHALLENGES CNT'D

Social-economic challenges

- The programs that specifically target all Persons with Disabilities are limited both in scope and scale due to limited financing and the mechanisms for delivery of these programmes.
- There is no comprehensive data on landmine Survivors and victims because the available data is not disaggregated and this therefore makes it difficult to properly identify the landmine survivors for specific needs and interventions.

CHALLENGES

Legal and Policy

- The current National Policy on Disability in Uganda (2006) has not been reviewed and yet the recommended time of reviewing the policy is ten years. The policy is also not aligned to the International Disability Rights standards, CRPD.
- Measures to effectively implement and monitor the existing laws and policies are inadequate mainly due to limited funding, as well as the negative attitudes and stigma and discrimination attached to disability by some duty bearers.

THANKS