

Victim Assistance in Liberia: then and now

Liberia	1	2	3	4	5	6
According to original study	•	•		•	•	•
According to LM 2002	•	•				•
According to LM 2003		•				•

Key Developments (LM 2002):

None

Indicator 1: The extent to which information on mine victims' demographics and needs is available.

According to original study:

No information available.

According to LM 2002:

There is no mine clearance carried out in Liberia. In view of the ongoing war, this is clearly not a priority. There are no known marking exercises to indicate mined or suspected mined areas and no mine risk education programs are in place.⁵

In 2001, no new landmine casualties were reported. In 2000, a Liberian newspaper reported that thirteen people had been killed and six injured in landmine incidents, however, it was not clear if all incidents occurred in 2000.⁶

Indicator 2: The extent to which a national disability coordination mechanism exists and recognizes mine victims.

According to original study:

No information available.

According to LM 2002:

There are no specific landmine survivor assistance programs, although limited assistance is available through programs for all persons with disabilities.

Indicator 3: The extent to which programs and services for the medical care and rehabilitation of mine victims are available.

According to original study:

LM 2000 draft reports that two prosthesis workshops in Ganta and Monrovia have been reactivated but that, in general, health facilities are limited due to the destruction and looting during the civil war.

According to LM 2002:

Transport remains a major constraint, and rehabilitation and reintegration services are extremely limited. There are two prosthetic workshops in the country; one is in Ganta, run by the Ministry of Health, and one is in Monrovia, run by Handicap International Belgium.

The Buchanan-based research group is continuing its work of identifying landmine survivors. The four survivors interviewed so far reported similar experiences. In the immediate aftermath of the incident there was some assistance from first aid workers who took the victim to the nearest hospital though this may have been many miles away, where if necessary, amputations were performed.

Indicator 4: The extent to which programs and services for the social and economic reintegration of mine victims are available

According to original study:

LM 2000 draft reports no economic aid services for mine victims.

According to LM 2002:

There is very little psychological support or vocational training available in Liberia, though there are a few services for those able to pay for it.⁷

[According to the Buchanan-based research group,] the survivors have experienced psychological problems since the incident. All of the survivors identified by the Buchanan group are parents and none are able to provide for their families; none of the children of these survivors are able to go to school. This group of landmine survivors were injured during the civil war and have been living in dire poverty ever since.⁸

The planned nationwide survey of former fighters by the National Commission of Ex-Combatants has not begun. The limited resources available are being used to assist ex-combatants in more practical ways, including new ex-combatants emerging from the current war.⁹

Indicator 5: The extent to which mine victims are protected and supported by effective laws and policies.

According to original study:

No information available.

According to LM 2002:

No disability laws exist in Liberia.

Indicator 6: The extent to which there is a disability community advocacy network.

According to original study:

No information available.

According to LM 2002:

No information available.

Endnotes:

⁵ See *Landmine Monitor 2001*, pp. 88.

⁶ For more details see *Landmine Monitor Report 2001*, p. 89.

⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 89-90.

⁸ Observation based on four interviews conducted by the Buchanan-based research group. Information contained in its submission to *Landmine Monitor*, 28 August 2001.

⁹ Informal interview with officials at the National Commission for Ex-Combatants, Monrovia, 11 March 2002.