

Victim Assistance in Zimbabwe: then and now

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

Key Developments (LM 2002):

In December 2001, it was announced that Zimbabwe's army had completed demining 1.8 million square meters of land around the main border crossing with Mozambique. In 2002, a National Authority on Mine Action was formed to coordinate activities of mine victims and other landmine-related activities. In 2001, five new landmine casualties were reported. Zimbabwe clarified its position regarding possible joint military operations involving use of antipersonnel mines.

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

According to original study:

LM 2000 reports that since independence in 1980, some 13,000 landmine incidents have been recorded, but independent research has indicated that these statistics are understated by as much as forty percent.

According to LM 2002:

In 2001, five new landmine casualties were reported, of which two were killed and three injured, including three men and one woman. The sex of one of the persons killed is unknown.⁵¹ In 2000, there were four reported landmine casualties.⁵² The most recent reported casualty occurred on 25 March 2002 when one male was injured in a landmine incident.⁵³

A proposal by SADC/EU [Southern African Development Community/European Union] to set up a database of Zimbabwe landmine casualties and survivors by age, sex and location is pending.

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:

No information available.

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

According to original study:

A 1999 UNMAS-led Assessment Mission reports that Zimbabwe has sufficient infrastructure to provide medical care and rehabilitation for mine victims but it lacks both equipment and supplies. Mine victims can be treated at either of the two national hospitals, or in the 8 hospitals at the provincial level; the 56 hospitals at the district level can only be used for first aid support. As well, rural populations often lack access (because of distance and cost) to the appropriate treatment. Civilians do not qualify for medical insurance available to military victims. There are prosthetic centres in Harare and Bulawayo run by the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare with support from the ICRC and donor community.

According to LM 2002:

The Zimbabwe government covers the initial cost of treating landmine victims; however, it was evident from field research that there is little follow-up assistance available to survivors.⁵⁴ A lack of government funds does not allow for a comprehensive survivor assistance program in Zimbabwe and there is no single organization providing for landmine survivors. Assistance for persons with disabilities, including landmine survivors, is channeled through the Social Dimension Fund of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.⁵⁵

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

According to original study:

According to LM 1999, the state provides up to fifteen per cent of medical costs to victims of mines. The individual meets the rest of the cost. A 1999 UNMAS-led Assessment Mission reports that landmine victims injured before April 1980 are covered for compensation under the War Victims Compensation Act. LM 2000 reports that the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare runs a community-based rehabilitation project in 49 or Zimbabwe's 55 districts.

According to LM 2002:

Disabled persons receive Z\$250 (about US\$5) per month for children and Z\$500 (about US\$10) per month for adults.⁵⁶

The [SADC/EU] database will help to place disabled people in self-help projects such as piggeries, poultry farms, and market gardening. Collective community projects will also be encouraged.⁵⁷

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

According to original study:

A 2000 UNMAS-led Assessment Mission reports that landmine victims injured before April 1980 are covered for compensation under the War Victims Compensation Act.

According to LM 2002:

The 1992 "Disabled Persons Act" makes provision for the welfare and rehabilitation of disabled persons and established the National Disability Board.⁵⁸

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

According to original study:

LM 2000 reports that there is a National Council for the Disabled in Zimbabwe.

According to LM 2002:

The 1992 "Disabled Persons Act" makes provision for the welfare and rehabilitation of disabled persons and established the National Disability Board.⁵⁸

Endnotes:

⁵¹ Fax communication from Engineers Directorate, Army Headquarters, 8 July 2002.

⁵² Landmine Monitor Report 2001, pp. 181-182.

⁵³ Fax communication from Engineers Directorate, Army Headquarters, 8 July 2002.

⁵⁴ Landmine Monitor Report 2001, p. 182.

⁵⁵ Interview with Mr Mukuta, Director, National Association of Societies for the Care of the Handicapped (NASCOH), Harare, 1 February 2002.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Interview with Colonel J. Munongwa, National Demining Office, Harare, 23 January 2002.

⁵⁸ "Disabled Persons Act" 1992; see also Landmine Monitor Report 2001, p. 182.