

**Enhanced Victim Assistance Support to Facilitate Progress towards achieving the aims of the
Cartagena Action Plan in Uganda and Burundi: Final Narrative Report on Funds Provided by
AusAID Agreement 55543**

Prepared by the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit

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Background:

1. In response to a project proposal submitted to the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) by the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's Implementation Support Unit (ISU), AusAID agreed to provide AUD \$100,000.00 to the ISU with the expected result of facilitating progress towards achieving the aims of the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014 in two African States with which Australia has development cooperation interests, namely, Uganda and Burundi.
2. The project was undertaken in two phases. The first phase focusing on providing support to Uganda and the second phase focusing on providing support to Burundi.

Report:

3. The project was intended to contribute towards the achievement of the aims of the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014 in Burundi and Uganda, countries that already benefit from AusAID development assistance, through the convening of national workshops with a view to: (a) to raise awareness of the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014 and obligations as a State Party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Convention in relation to victim assistance; (b) to raise awareness of obligations under the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); (c) to review strategies for effective implementation and sustainability of victim assistance-related programmes; (d) to facilitate progress in the development and/or revision of national victim assistance plan or objectives, particularly examining the extent to which efforts to improve the quality of life of landmine survivors has been integrated into existing national health care, social services, development, poverty reduction and legal frameworks; and (e) to share lessons learnt from other relevant States Parties. The proposal was based on the understanding that in order to enhance victim assistance efforts in relevant States Parties in Africa it is necessary to focus intensively on national efforts.

Victim assistance/disability support to Uganda

4. Uganda is one of the States Parties to the AP Mine Ban Convention that has reported responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors. In 2007, a Comprehensive Plan on Victim Assistance for the period 2008 to 2012 was adopted following a national planning workshop. After the Cartagena Summit, Uganda decided that it should review its Comprehensive Plan to ensure that it was complementary to both the Cartagena Action Plan and to Uganda's obligations as a State Party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Uganda requested assistance from the ISU in this undertaking.
5. In response to the request of Uganda, the ISU sought project funding from Australia to assist Uganda to bring its plan into line with the Cartagena Action Plan at the CRPD. Funding was profiled for two specific activities, firstly, to support the convening of the *Second National Planning Workshop on Victim Assistance* which aimed to review and revise the existing

Comprehensive Plan on Victim Assistance, and, secondly, to enable the ISU's Victim Assistance Specialist to provide intensive support to the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA) and other relevant actors in Kampala and Entebbe. Support was provided both in advance of the National Workshop and in the weeks following the workshop in order to ensure a successful outcome.

6. Uganda's second National Planning Workshop successfully took place in Entebbe from 4-6 August 2010. The workshop received high level support. It was opened by the Honourable Madada Sulaiman, Minister of State for Elderly and Disability Affairs of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD) and brought together about 50 representatives from the MGLSD, Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA), Kyambogo University, Disabled Persons Organisations, NGOs working in the disability sector, and survivors, and Community Development Officers from various districts. The Workshop was supported by the ISU's Victim Assistance Officer and logistical support to the Workshop was provided by a temporary ISU staff member.
7. The second National Planning Workshop on Victim Assistance culminated in the adoption of a set of recommendations that had been devised in a participatory workshop manner. The recommendations were used to feed into the revised Comprehensive Plan for the period 2010-2014 to ensure that the new draft National Plan of Action linked closely with the CRPD and the CAP and also sought to ensure that this Plan reflected the common views of all persons working on this issue in Uganda.

Victim assistance/disability support to Burundi

8. Burundi is a State Party to the AP Mine Ban Convention that has reported responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors. Since ratifying the Convention in 2003, Burundi has maintained that it faces great challenges in meeting the needs of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities in the country. Prior to this project, Burundi had no coordinated national efforts on VA/Disability nor had it developed a plan of action for victim assistance or for the disability sector more generally. Burundi had reported limited resources, financial and human, required to advance efforts in this area.
9. Burundi is a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with ratification currently pending, however, there is a lack of awareness of the rights and needs of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities in Burundi. Burundi made a request for international support in meeting the needs of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities in the country.
10. ISU support to Burundi was provided in two phases, firstly, through assistance in convening a national workshop in order to bring together relevant actors from across the country to develop collective SMART objectives that could be elaborated into a national plan on disability including victim assistance, and secondly, to assist Burundi with the next step of turning these objectives into the plan and supporting the adoption of this plan at the highest national level.
11. The *Atelier de Sensibilisation sur l'Assistance aux Victimes des Mines et Les Restes Explosifs de Guerre* (Awareness Raising Workshop on Assistance to Victims of Landmines and ERW) was hosted by the Ministry of Public Security from 17-19 January 2011 in Bujumbura, Burundi. The workshop brought together 92 participants from all over Burundi. Participation of persons with

disabilities was strong accounting for more than 20 percent of participants. Logistical support for the workshop and tasks related to administering Australian funding at the workshop was provided by a temporary ISU staff member.

12. Following the workshop, the ISU's Victim Assistance Consultant remained in Bujumbura to assist the government in translating specific objectives from the national workshop on victim assistance into the first draft of the national plan of action to address the rights and needs of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities for the period 2011-2014. The plan was finalised in April 2011 and successfully adopted by all relevant ministries in October 2011.
13. The development and adoption of a Plan of Action is a positive step for Burundi. The next step will be to establish a mechanism to monitor progress in implementing the national plan.

Gender considerations:

14. Throughout the implementation of this project, the ISU remained cognisant of gender and diversity in all of its undertakings. In order to ensure a consistent approach, the ISU developed a diversity action plan, ensuring that gender and diversity is incorporated into all aspects of the ISU's work. Tools developed by the ISU for States Parties to apply the strategic approach on victim assistance agreed to at the First Review Conference make specific mention of the particular needs of women, girls, boys and men. Communications materials (e.g., PowerPoint presentations, publications, etc) feature balance in terms of gender and diversity in images used. The ISU has continued to promote depictions of women, girls, boys and men with disabilities in a positive, empowering light, emphasising the abilities of all individuals rather than the injury or the disability.

Finances:

15. In order to implement this project, grant funds were provided by Australia in the sum of AUD \$100,000.00 with the expected result of facilitating progress towards achieving the aims of the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014 in two African States Parties: Uganda and Burundi. The contribution received by the ISU on 28 June 2010 amounted to CHF 99,550.00 in accordance with the exchange rate on that date.

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| Contribution received in 2010 | | CHF 99,550.00 |
| Less expenditure in 2010 | CHF 43,209 | |
| <i>Salary and social costs</i> | <i>CHF 2,071</i> | |
| <i>Travel costs (ISU staff)</i> | <i>CHF 3,507</i> | |
| <i>Travel costs (third persons)</i> | <i>CHF 23,305</i> | |
| <i>Venue and associated costs</i> | <i>CHF 13,673</i> | |
| <i>Miscellaneous costs (eg. office supplies, photocopies, communications)</i> | <i>CHF 542</i> | |
| <i>Bank charges and exchange rates</i> | <i>CHF 111</i> | |
| Carryover from 2010 into 2011 | | CHF 56,341.39 |
| Less expenditure in 2011 | CHF 56,867 | |
| <i>Salary and social costs (ISU staff)</i> | 6,480 | |
| <i>Travel costs (ISU staff)</i> | 3,927 | |
| <i>Consultant fees</i> | 9,100 | |
| <i>Consultant travel costs</i> | 1,407 | |
| <i>Travel costs (third persons)</i> | 14,954 | |
| <i>Venue and associated costs</i> | 573 | |
| <i>Miscellaneous costs (eg. office supplies, photocopies, phone)</i> | 2,196 | |
| <i>Bank and post account fees and exchange rates</i> | CHF 1,543 | |
| TOTAL PROJECT EXPENDITURE | CHF 86,452 | |
| Surplus funds to be returned to Australia | | CHF 11,480 |

The surplus funds remaining arose as a result of the fewer high level participants taking advantage of the additional sponsorship than anticipated together with savings on other budgeted expenditure.

All financial transactions carried out by the ISU in 2010 including those that concern this project, were audited by Deloitte with the auditors remarking that, based on their examination, nothing had come to their attention that does not comply with Swiss law.