

Sudan Statement on Mine Clearance, Article 5. Cartagena, Summit on a Mine-Free World

Achievements since 2004,

Mine Action remains a high priority for the Republic of the Sudan at level of the Government of National Unity and Government of Southern Sudan. The mission of the Sudan is, a Sudan free from landmines by 2014 as stated by the President of the Republic and which is the Treaty deadline for the Sudan.

Since 2004, with generous support from the donor community and the UN system in the Sudan, Sudan has tremendous progress towards achieving its article 5 Clearance obligations.

As first step in addressing the landmine and explosive remnants of problem the Sudan established the National Mine Action Authority and the Southern Sudan Demining Authority who charged with to decide on all mine action policy and strategic issues and provide an oversight mechanism for all mine action operations. In addition, to the head office of the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) based in Khartoum, and the Southern Sudan Demining Authority head office based in Juba, six field offices of the NMAC and SSSDA have been established in strategic locations to facilitate and oversee mine action operations.

In order to provide policy and strategic direction for mine action in the country, with assistance from the UN System, Sudan developed “National Mine Action Policy Framework”, and “National Mine Action Strategic Framework for 2006-2011. Both these documents have been endorsed by the council of ministers.

In order to have a details picture of the impact of the mine and ERW contamination problems, Sudan completed Landmine Impact Survey to measure the scope and impact of the landmine/ERW contamination problem. This survey was completed early this year.

By working together with our UN counterparts, the Sudan have developed a three year operations plan covering the period of 2009-2011. With the implementation of this plan, Sudan aims to clear 80 percent of all known high and medium affected areas by the end of 2011.

As part of the cost effective and sustainable mine and ERW clearance assets Sudan trained approximately 200 deminers out of whom 120 have been deployed for mine/ERW clearance operations with funding from the Government of National Unity.

Since January 2007, the national mine/UXO teams completed clearance and verification of 14 high priority tasks including the clearance/verification of 446 km long Babanusa-Wau railway line, and 1,250 Km high priority roads in eastern and central parts of the country. In total AP 968 , AT 582 , UXOs 3.279 and Small Arms Ammunition (SAA) 38.617 all destroyed .

I am pleased to report to that all the costs of the above field operations projects and all the costs of the National Mine Action Centre and the Southern Sudan Demining Authority are covered by the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan. Since March 2007, the Government of National Unity has spent approximately 9 Million US Dollars while the Government of Southern Sudan has spent approximately 3 Millions US Dollars to cover the cost of various mine action activities.

In total, as of October 2009 a total of 5.009 dangerous areas have been identified of which 3,628 with more than 54 million square meters areas, have been cleared or verified while 1,381 are waiting clearance. During clearance operations, a total of 16,150 anti-personnel mines, 3,285 anti-tank mines, and more than 837,887 explosive devices were found and 1.106.830 Small Arms Ammunition (SAA) destroyed.

Task remaining:

As it stands now, Sudan is left with more than 1.381 known dangerous areas to be survey, verified and cleared in various parts of the country. However, as more and more areas become accessible, new dangerous are discovered. Given the size of the country, poor infrastructure and poor communication system, knowing the full scale of the mine/ERW contamination problem in the Sudan will remain a challenge.

Key Challenges:

Despite the tremendous progress so far, key challenges remain for mine action in the Sudan. One of our key challenges is the declining resources for mine action from both state budget and international community. We strive out best to maintain the required funding for mine action and reduce the impact of the declining funding. For example, the Government has received very limited

direct funds from the donor community for national mine/ERW clearance capacity and that is only through UNDP. Until now only the government of the UK has contributed about US\$ 300,000 for the training and equipping of the national demining teams and US Department of the State has provided approximately two million dollars to provide technical support and equipment to the national mine/ERRW clearance assets. Therefore, Sudan would like to appeal to the donor community to increase its support to the development of the national mine/ERW clearance assets so the country could stand on its own.

As you are aware, Sudan as large country with poor infrastructure in most parts of the country. This is making mine action difficult and costly. However, with opening of the key roads and routes access is becoming available to most parts of the country and costs are dropping down.

Security in some parts of our still remain a challenge. However, were are working closely with local authorities and affected communities so mine action operations could conducted without any major disruption.

Thank you all,