

Sudan statement in the standing  
committee Geneva 9-13 February  
2004

- **Sudan Landmines Actions  
1997-2004**

□ We would like to express our  
gratitude for GICHD  
, UNMAS; EU; DIFD; UNICEF; UNDP;  
CNADIAN Gov.; ICRC, DCA and  
LMA

- Sudan area is about 2 million sq  
kilometers , as one of the largest  
countries in Africa

The internal conflict is the major cause of the landmines problem in the country

Sudan had a lot of humanitarian engagements (OLS) especially the landmines engagements (Nuba Mountains ,London, Geneva ,Nairobi) resulted production of one landmines policy framework

(GoS\_SPLM)

Landmines has left nearly 10 million hectares of arable land out of use .Roads have been abandoned and railways carriages halted with the air lifting options left transfer humanitarian assistance to populations caught up in the conflict against each dollar spent in food cost , **5 dollars are spent on airlifting**

## GoS landmines Actions

- The government of Sudan (GoS) signed the Ottawa Treaty in 1997
- the GoS Ratified the Ottawa treaty on **October 19<sup>th</sup> 2003**

## GoS Actions.. Cont....

- Landmines action has been projected as an important element in the Nuba Mountains Cease-fire Agreement (NMCFA) in January 2002 between the Government of Sudan (GOS) and the SPLA.

## Nuba mountains module

### 1- Cease fire agreement

- practical cross-line demining(Detecting Dogs0
- Cross-line training(portable machines )
- Package of MRE activities Kassala, NM, IDPs)
- Ongoing efforts on victim assistance

## Mine Action Structure

- MA Higher Committee
- MA Technical committee
- National mine action Office(NMAO)
- SCBL (Composed of more than 30 National ,International NGOs)

## The GoS MA Mechanisms

- National Mine Action Authority
  - National Standards/Accreditation  
(Matching with international standards)
- One Country Approach

## Mine Action Continue.....

- March 2002 , UNMAS has officially established presence in Sudan
- July 2003, a tripartite (UN, GOS & SCBL) mine action centre has been established in Sudan – National Mine Action Office (NMAO) . Already UNMAS has established a permanent presence in Nuba Mountains to provide timely standards information response for mine action (IMSMA)

## Mine action progress,,,, Continue

- April 2003 a joint ceremonial graduation of the deminers from both sides took place in Nuba Mountains. Demining, separately initiated on both sides by the Sudanese NGOs –JASMAR in GOS and OSIL in SPLM /a areas.
- August 10, 2003 GOS Council of Ministers endorsed the recommendations for Ratification of Mine Ban Treaty.

□A meeting was held in Nairobi on January 12<sup>th</sup> , 2004. The specific context of the meeting was that there was agreement between the GoS and the SPLM that mine action is one of the priorities of the peace process

***The delegations agreed on the following proposed policy framework:-***

## ***Sudan proposed Landmines policy framework:-***

### **1. VISION**

- A Sudan free from the effects of landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)
- A Sudan where mine action is a humanitarian imperative that has been removed from politics , and where Sudanese enjoy durable peace and sustainable development, which is built on promotion of human security, ensuring law and order, respecting human rights and adhering to the principles of good governance.
- A Sudan that adheres to all international protocols on landmines issues and stigmatizes the use, transference and manufacture of landmines

### **2. MISSION**

- A Sudan free from the threat of landmines and ERW , where Sudanese communities live in a safe environment conducive to national confidence building , a peace culture, and socio-economic development; where mine survivors are fully integrated; and where Sudan has committed itself to stigmatize the use of landmines and to implement international, regional and national agreements.
- This would be achieved by means of the establishment of a National Mine Action Authority (NMAA), together with the establishment of Regional Mine Action Centers in both SPLM/GoS controlled areas.

### 3. PRINCIPLES

- Sudanese ownership and leadership through the NMAA
- "One country "approach through the NMAA, during the interim period
- Confidence /peace building through mine action
- Regulation of mine action
- Internationally accepted standards and quality assurance
- Developmental links of mine action
- Cost effectiveness and use of appropriate and suitable technology in mine action
- National capacity building with international assistance
- Prioritization of mine action to be based upon an agreed needs-based assessment process, including national, regional and local levels.
- Accreditation of national and international organizations to be conducted by the Regional Mine Action Centers, in conjunction with UNMAS, for submission to the National Mine Action Authority for approval, Pre-conflict agreement to continue in the post-conflict interim period, unless and until decided otherwise.

#### Mine action operational progress .....

- In February 2002, the civil society groups across the lines signed an agreement with the EU for landmines information and response – for the whole Sudan.
- In March 2002, a joint cross line rapid assessment survey was carried out in Nuba Mountains between the civil society groups across the lines of conflict. Landmine Action – U.K. provided the neutral bridge for this unprecedented achievement.
- In May 2002, Save (US) with SCBL conducted a training w/s for information gathering at NM for 80 local capacities

--3-4 July 2002, a national mine awareness workshop was held in Khartoum organized by SCBL and supported by the UNMAS.

8 September 2003 an initial Mine Risk Education Workshop was organized by HAC in collaboration with NMAO and UNICEF for establishing LA – MRE and forming a national strategy.

--September 2002 a cross line tripartite (DCA, OSIL and JASMAR) MOU was signed in Geneva for a cross line training and mine action activities

--in the same time a tripartite (GOS, SPLM and UNMAS) MOU was signed

### Requirements & needs

- 1-National capacity building
- 2- Support for mine action Authority
- 3-Technical assistance
- 4-Support cross-line coordination
- 5-Support post-conflict mine action plan of action
- 6- Support experience exchange and sharing within the State parties(Study tours ).
- 7- Military to military bilateral support
- 8- Impact survey