

**SITUATIONAL REPORT ON ZAMBIA'S IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES CONVENTION TO THE
SESSIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES
GENEVA - 13-17 JUNE 2005**

INTRODUCTION

This situational report on Zambia's implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines and their Destruction (The Ottawa Convention) has been prepared on the occasion of the Sessions of the Standing Committees of the Anti-Personnel Landmines Convention from 13th to 17th June, 2005 organised by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). The report looks at various aspects of the national implementation of the Mine-Ban Convention and thus gives an overview of the landmines situation in Zambia. In this regard, the report provides information on Zambia's efforts to implement the Convention and has also been structured in response to the questions as raised by the secretariat in the Suggested Framework for Preparing Presentations.

The report covers, among others, Zambia's experiences in identifying and demining affected areas. It also highlights achievements in Mine Risk Education and Awareness, Information Management Systems and in Victim Support. It also spells out the national plan of Zambia and the linkage between demining and national human development. It therefore forms a basis on which Zambia can mitigate its landmine condition.

1. PROBLEMS

▪ Identification of mined or suspected mined areas?

Identification of mined areas has not been an easy task due to very little information on exact locations of landmines and UXO. This threatens the population and hampers social and economic development. However there are 42 locations that were identified as a result of a national survey that was conducted in 2004 by the Zambia Mine Action Centre (Hereinafter the ZAMAC). Efforts to undertake follow up detailed assessments before clearance can actually commence, are underway pending the availability of funds.

Mines and unexploded ordnance have been located in either caches left over from the liberation struggles, which was the main source of mines and UXO in Zambia. Of these, Anti tanks also pose some danger as they were used to curtail the movements of the Rebel Army in the then Rhodesia, (Zimbabwe)

- **What areas are affected?**

The National Survey conducted by the ZAMAC was established that the Southern, Western and North Western Provinces, where a lot of military activities took place during the liberation wars, be mine free. Other areas include Luapula, Central and Eastern Provinces

- **What must be done to acquire more information?**

The ZAMAC needs to continue its programmes to raise mine awareness and mine risk education in the affected areas. This programme, which has been supported by the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), requires more funds to cover all areas, including refugee camps and resettlements. There may also be need to intensify consultations with former adversaries in order to establish exact locations of mines or UXO. The task may prove to be a lot more difficult due to passage of time. Some may have died, while others may have simply forgotten the topology of the geographical expanse.

2. PLANS

- **Is there a national plan to clear mined areas as required by article 5 (1) of the Convention?**

Zambia has a three year comprehensive strategic plan on landmines called the Humanitarian Demining Programme in Zambia which not only seeks to clear mined areas, but also promote mine awareness, mine risk education and support mine victims and social integration among the population living in mine-affected areas. The ZAMAC has also developed an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA).

- **What are the objectives of the national plan in relation to the Convention to clear areas within ten year time frame?**

The main objective is to secure a mine free nation in order to facilitate human developmental activities. That would be, to secure land and other resources in affected areas, for economic development e.g. in the tourism and agricultural sectors that have been identified by government as a lifeline for the Zambian economy.

- **How does the plan involve local actors and mine affected communities?**

The plan first involves the locals through the mine risk education programmes intended for both locals and refugees. It promotes access to fertile land by the local population, who would now feel secure to engage in economic and subsistence production in the affected areas

- **To what extent has plan emphasized clearance of high/medium impact areas as matter of priority – i.e. to ensure task selection, prioritization and planning of mine clearance?**

The Zambia Strategic Plan to overcome the landmine problem by 2008, has effected targeted areas for clearance on the basis of high/medium impact. Mine clearance is a top priority affair as it has a direct relationship with poverty reduction and socio economic interventions. An example is the survey and clearance of the cattle cordon line in the Western Province to enhance livestock farming, which has hitherto been a problem due to the difficulty in controlling cattle disease as a result of uncontrolled animal movement across Zambian borders with Angola. Other areas of potential are the establishing of game reserves, mining, conservation, resettlement reforestation, and the World Bank Funded Gwembe-Tonga Development Project, Southern Province.

3. PROGRESS

- **Implementation of national plans – what work has been done so far and to what extent?**

The ZAMAC has successfully cleared the Gwembe valley area where it has facilitated development projects like the Gwembe-Tonga project have been embarked on. This could not have been possible if more than 600 kilometers of road were not demined. Another success story was the construction of the

Kakaro-Kavalamanja highway in Luangwa District and the resettlement program in Mwapula, Chongwe District, both in Lusaka Province. However, more still requires to be done.

There has also been considerable work done in mine awareness educating both local and refugee populations in affected areas

- **Have institutional structures been developed in this regard? What organizations and assets are being deployed and for what activities? How many people are involved for clearance, risk education, and coordination? What other assets are available?**

The main institutional structure established by Zambia, which provides the framework for implementing the Anti-personnel Landmines Act is the ZAMAC. The political authority of the center is vested in the National Committee on Anti Personnel Landmines (NCAL), which replaced the National Task Force on Landmines in 2003. The mandate of NCAL is to ensure Zambia meets its obligations as required by international conventions and to oversee mine action policy. An Act of Parliament provides the legal status for the ZAMAC. Under the Act 35 members of the ZMAC have been employed to specifically clear landmines. Many more players mainly under the supervision of the UNHCR, are involved in mine risk education and coordination is done by the ZMAC

- **What has been done to reduce new victims e.g. marking, monitoring and protecting mined areas awaiting clearance as required by Article 5 (2)?**

The ZAMAC has undertaken a nation-wide survey that enabled the identification of some 42 locations, which have been marked and protected awaiting clearance. As a result of this effort, only 200 victims of landmine related accidents have been recorded over a 5-year period, a statistic reflecting the success of the Zambian programmes.

- **To what extent has risk education been made available to mine risk areas. To what extent have these been incorporated into the education systems, border relief and development activities taking into account age, gender, socio economic and political and geographical factors in line with**

international mine clearing standards/national mine clearing standards?

The ZAMAC, with the support of UNICEF, the United Nations Education and Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), has conducted programmes in the affected areas to promote awareness and education in schools and the community.

- **Has progress been measured? How much has been cleared annually? Who much has been considered safe as a result of surveys or area reduction efforts. How many and what type of mines and UXO's have been cleared and destroyed. Is there system in place to record casualties. Have casualties reduced?**

Although it is difficult to measure progress, a lot of success has been scored in mine awareness in target areas. Out of a total of 6691 mines and UXO's, 3345 mines have been destroyed from the country stocks available, leaving 3346, which have been earmarked for total destruction by 2007. The remaining stocks are used for training purposes.

Only 200 casualties have been experienced over a period of five years, an indication that the number of occurrences as reduced drastically. This could be attributed to the awareness campaigns and marking of areas.

4. PRIORITIES FOR ASSISTANCE

- **What financial and technical support has been made available on national basis as required in Article 5? Has mine clearance been incorporated into national development and poverty reduction strategies?**

The ZAMAC has Treasury authority to spend ZMK 200 million each year from the national budget. Although this is a small amount, it demonstrates political commitment to the programmes.

- **Have efforts been made to engage World Bank or other financial institutions to support these requirements? What are govt's priorities for assistance from external sources of such support?**

Yes efforts have been made to secure resources to implement a plan that requires a total of about \$US 2.100,000. This money should take into consideration Humanitarian demining, Information Dissemination, Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance and Capacity Building. All these activities would then form a basis for sustained developmental programmes The World Bank has been involved in financing the Gwembe-Tonga Development Project in Southern Province.