

Republic of the Sudan

Statement by
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I would like to begin my statement by thanking the international donor community, the GICHD, the UN and all other stake holders in mine action in the Sudan, I would like to state that the landmine/ERW contamination not only continue to kill and maim innocent citizens of the Sudan, it also continue to hamper delivery of humanitarian aid, return of refugees and internally displaced people (IDP), implementation of humanitarian and development projects in this crucial post-war period, and ultimately, hindering the smooth implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the progress Sudan has made during the past few months in terms of legislative and institutional framework and building of operations capacities.

With technical, advisory and financial support from UNDP and UN Mine Action Office:

- National Mine Action Authorities established at the level of Government of National Unity (GoNU) by Presidential Decree No. 299 and Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) by Presidential Decree No. 45.
- National Mine Action Policy ~~Framework~~ and Mine Action Strategic Framework (2006-2011) developed and passed by the national cabinet.
- Mine action ^{HAS BEEN} included into the national budgeting process and funds allocated in 2006/2007 to cover the cost of the national personnel and some running costs
- A transition plan (From UN management to national management) being developed in close coordination with concerned UN agencies and other stakeholders ^{i>}

In terms of operations achievements, to date, 1,490 dangerous areas have been identified out of which 523 have been cleared and more than 950 dangerous remain to be cleared, with the fact that we do not know the exact extent of the problem as the Landmine Impact Survey has just commenced . ^{ARSA}

More than 7 million m² of land have been cleared, 3,221 km of roads verified as safe, and 850 km of those were cleared, 1,162 Anti-Personnel mines, 649 Anti-

Tank mines, 282,525 ERW destroyed. Under the overall coordination of UNICEF, more than 800,000 Sudanese people have received mine risk education (MRE) and 2,400 victims recorded in IMSMA.

On the question of stockpiled anti personnel mines, there are a total of 14,485 different kinds of AP mines under the control of the Government of National Unity. Types of AP mines in the stockpiles are detailed in the Article 7 reports submitted by the Sudan. Of this number, about 5,000 will be retained for training purposes while plans are being prepared for the destruction of 9,485.

I am pleased to report that as part of the national operations capacity building, 133 deminers jointly provided by Joint Integrated Units (JIUs) have been trained in humanitarian demining for 8 weeks by International Mine Action Center in Nairobi with funds from DFID. With resource mobilization and technical support from UNDP/UN Mine Action Office, arrangements for the deployment of the deminers are in progress.

Our key priorities for 2006/2007 include:

- Development and implementation of a transition plan (From UN Management to National Management)
- Establishment of the planned sub offices in six key locations
- Mainstreaming mine action into reconstruction and development process/projects
- Targeted Mine Risk Education to population at risk
- Emergency Survey, Marking and Targeted Clearance - Survey of 9,956 km of high priority routes and verification of 595 danger area reports
- Deployment of recently trained national mine/UXO clearance capacity (133 demining personnel)-in terms of equipment, supplies, running cost and tasking

Our key challenges include:

- Extremely limited funds available for national capacity development (less than 2 million over the past three years through UNDP)
- A logistical/administrative challenge due to the size of country and poor infrastructure, especially in Southern Sudan
- Logistical difficulties in accessing some of the remote areas, especially in Southern Sudan
- Poor coordination and cooperation among all mine action stake-holders/players
- Effective resource allocation and utilization
- Lack of information/maps on mine affected areas
- Limited local/national ops capacity developed

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