



United Nations Mine Action Office
Sudan

United Nations Mine Action Office Sudan

Newsletter

March/April 2007

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Victim Assistance Workshop

Victims of war, and in particular victims of mines and ERW, are confronted by many daunting challenges. Mine and ERW victims are injured both physically and psychologically. They are often deprived of their dignity and livelihoods and forced to devote time and energy to restoring their identities, their homes, and their place in the community. In Sudan, mine and ERW survivors face many challenges. Access to basic health and education services is very

limited, particularly in rural areas. Survivors are subjected to discrimination and are considered a burden to the family and community in which they live.

UNMAO, together with the National Mine Action Centre and the South Sudan Demining Commission, organized the first Sudan National Victim Assistance Workshop in Juba on 14th March. The workshop was attended by over 60 professional and technical actors including government



Victim Assistance Workshop conducted in Juba on 14th March

officials, diplomats, and representatives from national and international NGOs.

The main outcomes of the workshop were the final revision of the National Strategic Framework on Victim Assistance

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International Day for Mine Awareness

As the world marked the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on April 4th, UN agencies in Sudan recommitted themselves to supporting the process of mine clearance, mine risk education and assistance to those

affected by landmines. The day was observed with events in Khartoum, Kadugli, and Juba in order to raise awareness of the landmine problem in Sudan and of the efforts made by the National Mine Action Authority,

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Child marching for Mine Awareness in Khartoum

International Mine Awareness Day

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the South Sudan Demining Commission, UN agencies, local and international NGOs to respond to the threats posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war.

School children, landmine survivors, and landmine activists marched from the Peace Garden to the Police Club in Khartoum. At the Police Club there was an exhibition by NGOs and UN agencies on their mine action activities. On display were mine risk education materials, prosthetics, mine clearance equipment, and a mock minefield. The Minister of Interior, Director of the National Mine Action Centre, Director of the UN Mine Action Office, and landmine survivors all gave speeches on the importance of mine action and the achievements made in Sudan to date.



Landmine Survivors on Intl Mine Awareness Day

In Kadugli, April 4th was celebrated at the Al Zakerat centre. The guests were welcomed and speeches were made by representatives from UNICEF, UNMIS, Sector Commander and UNMAO. The governor of South Kordofan thanked UNMAO for their efforts in com-

bating landmines and certificates of cleared land were handed to the governor from UNMAO Regional Operations Coordinator. A landmine survivor read a poem he had written and a children's band performed a drama and a song specifically written for International Mine Awareness day. The ceremony was followed by an exhibition demonstrating manual clearance, EOD disposal, MRE material, prosthetics, and handicrafts made by landmine victims.

Events in Juba were opened with a number of speeches by the South Sudan Demining Commission's Deputy Commissioner, the Chief of SPLA Engineers, and Ms Asako Okai, Director, Humanitarian Assistance Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Attendees were treated to a performance by the "Southern Sudan Child Soldier Musicians" band, who had written a Mine Awareness song for the occasion. There was a demonstration of manual demining techniques and the use of mine detection dogs by the UNMIS Bangladeshi Military Demining Company and a display of demining machinery provided by Ronco and TDI. A number of NGOs distributed MRE materials, information about mine safe behavior disseminated, and displayed prosthetic limbs.

Stockpile Destruction

On the 30th of April the Government of Sudan destroyed the first batch of a stockpile Of 4,488 anti-personnel landmines in Al- Saleit area in Khartoum North. Several government officials attended the ceremony marking the destruction in addition to representatives from donor countries, UN Agencies, the media, and

international and national NGOs. The Minister of National Defense, State Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and the Director of the National Mine Action Center NMAC reiterated the commitment of the Sudan Government to destroy all AP Mines by the year 2008 according to its obligation under the Mine

Ban Convention. The UNMAO Director, Jim Pansegrouw congratulated the National Authorities in Sudan for the great effort and bold step to destroy that first batch and hoped that Sudan will take further steps to meet the obligations of Mine Ban Convention.



Explosion from the destruction of Sudan's first batch of stock-piled landmines



Some of the 4,488 anti-personnel landmines destroyed by the Government of Sudan

Victim Assistance Workshop

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(2007-2011), the creation of a common ground for a better understanding of VA and disability related issues, and presentations of planned and ongoing programs in Sudan. The workshop represented the starting

point for the establishment of a solid and effective network to design, implement and monitor activities to support Mine/ERW victims and persons with disabilities.

The Workshop was made possible thanks to a contribution from the Gov-

ernment of Japan, which has donated US\$ 1,698,341 through the Human Security Trust Fund for Victim Assistance and Mine Risk Education for Human Security.

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United Nations Mine Action Office

The role of the United Nations Mine Action Office (UNMAO) in Sudan to coordinate, facilitate, and oversee quality assurance of all mine action activities in the Sudan. Mine action includes finding and destroying landmines and explosive remnants of war, assisting victims, teaching people how to remain safe in a mine-affected environment, advocating for universal participation in international treaties like the Ottawa Convention, and destroying stockpiled landmines. Several UN agencies including UNMAS, UNICEF, and UNDP make up the UNMAO in Sudan. UNMAO works closely in collaboration with the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA), the South Sudan Demining Commission (SSDC) and several national and international agencies to reduce the impact of landmines and UXO in the country.

UNMAO would like thank the following donors for their generous contributions and support:

***Canadian International Development Agency
Common Humanitarian Fund
European Commission
ECHO
Germany
Italy
Japan
Netherlands
Norway
Sweden
United Kingdom
United States***



Key Achievements to Date

Total dangerous areas identified: 1,924
Total dangerous areas cleared: 762
Area cleared: 14,553,744 m²
Roads Assessed: 16,193 km
AT mines destroyed: 1,911
AP mines destroyed: 4,164
UXO's destroyed: 474,087
MRE provided: 1,336,77 persons

Funding Update

Total Requirement:

*Donor Voluntary Contribution: \$56,107,837
Assessed Budget: \$39,091,680
Grand Total: \$95,199,517*

Funding Contribution/Pledged:

*Donor Voluntary Contribution: \$15,311,166
Assessed Budget: \$39,091,680
Grand Total: \$54,402,846*



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