GUINEA-BISSAU MINE ACTION CENTRE

Standing Committee Meeting on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies

Presented by Cesar de Carvalho

Geneva, 25 April, 2007
GUINEA BISSAU is located in West Africa
The country is divided in two parts:
Continental and Islands
Surface area : 36.125 km²;
Population: 1.350.000
Language: Creole, Portuguese
Capital: Bissau

Bissau City
Location of Mined Areas
CLEARANCE

NGO-HUMAID/LMA  72 Personnel
NGO-LUTCAM/CG  93 Personnel

 ✓ Landmines  2,572 A/P
 ✓ Landmines  69 A/T
 ✓ Cleared Area  1,154,497.19 m²

2007 Operations
Explosive Remnants of War - Paiol
### Clearance Statistics – Paiol
August 2006 – March 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area Cleared</td>
<td>265,026 m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UXO (＞60 mm)</td>
<td>19,413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small caliber munitions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(＜20 mm)</td>
<td>27,121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minas AT</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal Removed</td>
<td>138,840 kg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Summary Nov 2000 - March 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>M²</th>
<th>AP Mines</th>
<th>AT Mines</th>
<th>UXO &gt; 60mm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>15,494.00</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>145,839.33</td>
<td>1,579</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>125,920.55</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>283,470.39</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>215,871.85</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>119,464.47</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>230,372.90</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>164</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>924,124.29</td>
<td>2,572</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>29,783</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a) Mines and UXO handed over to CAAMI by the local population and military

## Challenges/Difficulties

- Need to transport large quantities of munitions to Central Destruction Sites (Rossum e Prabis)
- Lack of explosives (especially high grade, high velocity)
- Destruction, in-situ, of unstable munitions contaminating highly populated areas
Now that the work in Bissau is nearing completion, the next stage of operations will focus on areas outside the capital. As a result, more data regarding the type and nature of mine and UXO contamination is needed, and we are in the process of executing an impact survey or LIS:

1- Completion of the Preliminary Opinion Collection (POC);
2- Launch of a tender to look for an experienced NGO to support CAAMI in carrying out the remaining portions of the survey work;
3- Finally, the results of the survey will be compiled and presented, along with an action plan for the “Completion” of Guinea-Bissau’s Article 5 obligations.
Northern Border:
Case of Sao Domingos

- Security concerns;
- Lack of financial and material resources;
- Possibility of enhanced efficiency in the area, through close ties between CAAMI and the newly-established Senegal Mine Action Centre in Ziguinchor

National Commitment

- The National Government currently faces many challenges and considers health and education its most urgent priorities;
- However, Local Governments, close the problems faced by affected communities are increasingly vocal about the blockages they face due to mine and UXO contamination;
- As a result, support has been limited to good will and political support for the Ottawa Convention and the country’s obligations. There has been some material in-kind support, but no direct financial contribution by the Government;
- Guinea-Bissau requires financial, technical and logistical support to meet its Convention obligations and to assist communities affected by mines and UXO. The amount required will be clear in the aftermath of the LIS.
Mine Risk Education

Financial support from the International Community for MRE significantly reduced over the past two years. This has led to a reduction in the number of MRE “activists” in the country. UNICEF continues to support us with a “symbolic” funding that we are using in the high priority area of S. Domingos, which borders Senegal.
The MAXX multi-tool vegetation cutter is the only mechanical asset currently available to the programme. This machine was provided to CAAMI by the US Government, in the framework of a partnership with UNDP.

Having this mechanical asset has made a significant contribution to the programme, since it has facilitated the efficient operation of clearance NGOs through the following tasks:

1- Vegetation cutting;
2- Excavation in contaminated areas, and for site preparation;
3- Transport of aircraft bombs (50-500kg);
4- Removal of scrap metal from contaminated areas.
Thank you for your attention

We thank all our current and past stakeholders
CAAMI’s vision is for a Guinea-Bissau Free of Landmines and UXO