

**SUDAN REPORTING TO THE SECOND SESSION OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE
BAN CONVENTION
GENEVA 21-25 JUNE 2004**

**UPDATE TO THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MINE
CLEARANCE, MINE RISK EDUCATION AND MINE ACTION
TECHNOLOGIES**

BACKGROUND

a. Demographics

Sudan is the largest country in Africa with a surface area 2,505,810 sq km. This is approximately as large as Europe and more than one quarter the size of the USA. It shares borders with 9 countries and the Red Sea (a total of 8540km) and has a population of 38,114,160 (2003 estimate).

b. History of the Conflict

Sudan has been engulfed in civil conflict with the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM) in Southern Sudan for 20 years since 1983, with some 20 of the 26 States affected by war in some form. In regards to power-sharing, on May 26th 2004, after months of negotiations, the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the SPLM reached agreement on the remaining three protocols. These protocols complete a series of six agreements which are to make up a comprehensive peace agreement and represent almost two years' work since the first protocol was signed at Machakos, Kenya, in July 2002. Together they represent the parties' solemn commitment to conclude negotiations with a long-awaited comprehensive peace agreement as soon as possible. Technical committees are expected to prepare annexes governing the implementation of the protocols and comprehensive ceasefire arrangements and guarantees. This would signal the pre-interim period lasting six months, and lead to an interim period of six years. At the end of the period, a referendum on whether to remain in a united Sudan or separate will be held in the south. As early as 2001, after the signing of the Nuba Mountains Peace Agreement, the GoS and the SPLM started cooperating in the area of mine action, which established a unique precedent for cooperation and peace-building even during ongoing conflict.

c. Advocacy

Sudan signed the Mine Ban Treaty on December 4th 1997. Sudan's signing of the Convention, despite its security concerns which are well known to all, stems from its deep conviction and its strong belief that humanity should get rid of such dangerous weapons which threaten the lives of innocent populations. Sudan attended the First Meeting of States Parties in Maputo and actively participated in the Ottawa Process ever since. In June 2001, the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), the Sudanese government focal point for mine issues, convened a workshop on the treaty and a technical committee was

formed from ministries, to advise on treaty ratification. In May 2003, the Council of Ministers of Sudan had officially and unanimously endorsed the Mine Ban Treaty and had transmitted it to Parliament for ratification. The Treaty was ratified on October 23rd 2003, and came into force on April 1st 2004. The Treaty now commits Sudan to destroying its stocks by April 1st 2008, demining all affected areas by April 1st 2014, and to reporting to the UN Secretary-General on measures taken to implement the treaty (Initial Report) by September 1st 2004. Since the signing of the Convention by Sudan, the Sudan Campaign to Ban Landmines (SCBL) has always been active in mine action and in particular with regards to advocacy.

The National Mine Action Office (NMAO), assisted by UNDP and UNMAS, held an advocacy workshop from May 22nd-24th 2004. Sudan's obligations in terms of the Ottawa Convention was explained to 135 high ranking Government officials, Army officers and leaders of civil society and a guest from Yemen informed the participants of the Yemeni experience. All came away from the work shop with an increased awareness regarding Sudan's obligations towards the Ottawa Treaty.

On March 27th 2000, the SPLM committed to the Deed of Commitment under Geneva Call for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action. Under the deed, the SPLM/A committed itself not to use antipersonnel landmines under any circumstances. Two other non-state actors signed the deed on that date, which was the launch of the Geneva Call. The SPLM also created Operation Save Innocent Lives (OSIL-Sudan) in part to address the issue of landmines and UXO in the areas under their control. With the signing of the comprehensive peace agreement between the Government and the SPLM, Southern Sudan will be party to the obligations Sudan committed to when it signed the Treaty. Another work shop, similar work shop to the one that was held in Khartoum, is planned to take place in Southern Sudan, during August 2004, to inform the SPLM Authorities, the SPLA and civil society there about their obligations towards Sudan's commitments; now that peace has been achieved.

d. Mine Action Agreements and Structures

In September 2002, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was agreed to in Geneva between the government of Sudan, the SPLM and UNMAS regarding UN mine action support to Sudan. Under the terms of the MoU, the UN will seek to help both parties to jointly develop a national mine action strategy that meets the immediate needs of the emergency humanitarian situation and plans ahead to post conflict Sudan. Such strategy will eventually lead to a mutually agreed National Mine Action Plan. The Agreement realises the request of both parties to the UN, for implementing an emergency mine action project in Sudan, with the overall objective of reducing mine/UXO casualties among the civilian population and humanitarian aid community. According to the MoU, key elements that will be addressed are: accreditation, operational cooperation, national technical guidelines and standards, quality assurance monitoring, centralized reporting, resource mobilization and capacity-building.

Also in September 2002, the GoS, with UNMAS assistance, established a National Mine Action Office in Khartoum. The Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), under the auspices

of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, is the government focal point for coordination of mine action and is represented in the Mine Action Office, while the SPLM representative is the Executive Director of the Southern Sudan Mine Action Directorate. Subsequently UNMAS, together with the SPLM, established a Southern Sudan Mine Action Coordination Office in Rumbek and with the GoS a Regional Mine Action Office at Kadugli in the Nuba Mountains. The SCBL has been an active partner of the NMAO from its inception.

On January 13th 2004, the UN, the GoS and the SPLM reach an agreement on a policy framework for mine action in Sudan. Central to this policy was a “one-country” approach, with an overarching National Mine Action Authority as the policy-making body and the National Mine Action Office as the coordinating institution for all mine action in Sudan, including Southern Sudan.

e. Legislation

On May 9th 2004, the SPLM passed a decree legislating the Mine Action Authority and Mine Action Directorate for Southern Sudan. Similar legislation is currently being processed by the Government of Sudan.

I. EXTENT AND IMPACT OF MINED AREAS

a. The Mine and UXO Problem

Mine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) contamination continues to maim, kill, and obstruct the reconstruction and development of the country. Both the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM), and the Government of Sudan (GoS), have requested international assistance in the clearance of landmines. On January 25th 1997, the GoS submitted for the first time a formal request to the United Nations, for assistance in dealing with its landmine problem. It is estimated that over 1 million mines have been laid on Sudanese soil, with the vast majority of those located in southern Sudan. This represents some 42 types of mines and explosive ordnance from 14 countries. According to the U.S. Department of State, the desert of northern Sudan was mined during World War Two and more recently in new conflicts along the northwestern border with Libya and eastern border with Eritrea. Mines in the sparsely populated northwest occasionally affect livestock and nomads. The southern regions of Equatoria, Bahr El Ghazal, and Upper Nile, the Nuba Mountains of South Kordofan in central Sudan, and the eastern region, where there has been fighting since 1995, are all mine-affected. Most roads in the southern region are mined, and areas around towns such as Yei, Juba, Torit, Kapoeta and the Ugandan border town of Kaya, are reportedly mined.

Earlier in the conflict, antitank mine use was more prevalent than antipersonnel mine use and when roads were mined, the solution was not to clear them but to open new roads. Areas affected would include arable land, livestock grazing land, areas utilized for collecting firewood and producing charcoal, access routes and connection roads. It is estimated that mines or the Explosive Remnants of War may affect approximately 800,000 square kilometres or 32% of the country. However, the true extent and impact of Sudan's landmine problem remains unknown as there has been no in-depth, country-wide survey of

the problem. Out of the twenty six states of Sudan, it is suspected that 21 are affected, but information is currently restricted to only 11 of those states. Institutional records on minefields are very weak, and some of the personnel who laid mines have been either killed or transferred to other parts of the country. The lack of information on the mines and UXO contamination and its impact, still remains the most important obstacle in the way of progress of the Sudan mine action programme.

The conflict in Southern Sudan can be described as a classic guerrilla war in which the government held towns and cities and the insurgent forces controlled some of the countryside. In this type of warfare, the government used landmines to protect its garrison towns, and to interdict the movement of insurgent supplies and forces. On the other side, the guerrillas used landmines to fix government forces in the towns, and to interdict their supply lines. As early as March 1999, both the government of Sudan and the SPLM pledged not to use mines. It is known that the GoS and SPLM had different approaches in their utilization of landmines. While the GoS mainly laid anti-personnel mines to protect GoS controlled strongholds, villages and other assets, the SPLM mainly focused on laying anti-tank mines on main roads, approach routes and subsidiary roads.

The Sudanese government and the SPLM have never been known to manufacture antipersonnel landmines. Sudan has on many occasions in recent years stated that it does not produce, import, or export antipersonnel mines. Both the government's military and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) have stockpiled AP mines. AP mines from Belgium, China, Egypt, Israel, Iran, Iraq, Italy, United States and former Soviet Union have been identified in Sudan. Although limited AP mine stockpile destruction has taken place, the remaining stockpiles are not assessed as being significant.

b. Impact of Mines

Mines threaten civilians and impede economic development and prosperity. Landmines on key logistical routes will continue to hamper humanitarian interventions, and endanger the local community, Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's), refugees and UN and NGO staff. Should these routes be properly cleared of a mine/UXO hazard the resulting dividend, in terms of increased movement and transit of humanitarian and logistic supplies, this would significantly reduce the cost of humanitarian intervention in South Sudan. As elsewhere, the livelihoods of communities are affected through denial to livestock grazing land and arable land. Mining of routes denies free movement for trading, commerce and social interaction of communities.

b. Communities are affected to the extent that:

- Movement on connection roads is restricted and has a severe influence on localized trade. Long, demanding and degraded detours have to be utilized, more than often resulting in extended travel time.
- IDP returnees, moving on known routes and roads are seriously exposed to landmines. Victims often do not have access to timely and adequate medical assistance.

- Delayed repatriation of Internally Displaced People (IDP's) and refugee populations. It is estimated that there are approximately 3,500,000 IDP's and 500,000 refugees that are yet to return to their communities. The majority of them are farmers, pastoralists and nomads, whose return will dramatically increase the pressure on available land. The presence and/or perceived threat of landmines/UXO prevent IDP and refugee populations from returning to their places of origin. This further leads to a higher degree of uncertainty that limits any construction or re-construction efforts in mine/UXO and war-affected areas.
- Restricted internal mobility and migration. For example, some urban centres such as Juba, in Bahr El Jabal, are cut off from surrounding hinterlands. Thereby, internal trade between urban centres and surrounding rural areas has been prevented.
- Reduction in agricultural activity and thereby, sustainable livelihoods of rural communities. This includes crop production, the grazing of animals and animal husbandry. Supplementary food supply by humanitarian relief agencies is therefore required on an ongoing basis. Food relief, coupled by a feeling of uncertainty about if and when relocation or repatriation is to occur, cause affected people to consider their current residence to be temporary. Therefore, as they wait to return to their homes, cultivation in affected communities tends to be limited to subsistence needs.
- The presence of mines and UXOs continue to impact the daily existence of people living in mine-affected communities: from ordinary activities such as fetching water and firewood to activities related to their livelihood in farming and herding livestock.
- Children are denied their rights to play, to touch, and to explore.
- Some villagers, who lack the patience to wait for the demining teams or who find themselves with dire economic needs, use their own methods to clear land so that they can carry on with their agricultural activities and thereby, expose themselves to the risk of injury or death.
- Increased psychological trauma in affected communities. People are traumatised by the war, have lost relatives and family, and/or have been forced to relocate to other areas, as a result of mines/UXO.
- Many of the risk factors known to be associated with the cause and effects of mine related morbidity and mortality are currently not present in South Sudan. An increase in casualties is expected to occur, once more development activities start and IDP's/refugees return. For example, livelihood concerns force some affected people to go into possibly contaminated areas knowing there is a risk involved, although they generally try to minimise the risks by using well-known paths. Although this increase is not connected with returnees or a lack of awareness per se, but it is connected with various attempts for development, such as gaining access to markets and increased needs for generating income.

c. Landmine Casualties

The estimated number of land mine casualties over the past 5 years is 2,488. This is based on information collected in Khartoum, Kadugli, Juba, Malakal and Kassala by the ICRC, Sudanese Red Crescent, Danish Church Aid and a national NGO, SLIRI.

d. Classification and Methodology of Determining the Impact

Most of the affected areas are classified as having medium or low impact. This will, however, have to be confirmed by a comprehensive landmine impact survey (LIS) and the return of IDP's and refugees will in all probability also require a readjustment of currently low impacted areas to a higher category...

- Areas will only be classified as highly affected should conditions of serious, direct and immediate life threatening to human life, life sustaining infrastructure and denial to life sustaining humanitarian relief exist.
- Medium classifications are all related to areas that pose a threat to or influence the daily activities of the community and alternatives have to be found at great inconvenience or cost and some danger to affected populations.
- Areas classified in the low category relate to former areas contested and or defended by military forces during the civil war, to which communities have little or need to access. Low category areas have little effect on infrastructure and communities are aware of and can deal with the mine/UXO threat.

The impact is determined by the following:

- Frequency and geographical distribution of casualties.
- Information on contamination and requests from communities and aid agencies for emergency clearance.
- Reports by rapid assessment teams deployed in contaminated areas.

e. Planning and Steps taken to Obtain the Necessary Landmine Impact Information

- At present rapid assessments are conducted in five states previously identified to be affected. Such assessments are foreseen to be expanded into the remaining six of the eleven states known to be affected.
- On approval for assessments to be conducted (foreseen to be dependant on the comprehensive peace agreement being implemented) in the remaining fifteen states, presently only suspected to be affected, serious consideration is to be given to the implementation of a Landmine Impact Survey (LIS). The Survey Action Centre conducted two assessment missions to Sudan and recently submitted a

proposal for a pilot LIS in 2 states that are already relatively stable in terms of population movement and security. The proposal aims to follow-up by a comprehensive LIS in the other states suspected to be affected. This proposal will be included in the mine action planning for 2005.

II. MINE ACTION PLANNING

a. The following national mine action planning has been implemented:

- An Outline Concept Plan for Emergency Mine Action in Sudan, drafted on April 19th 2002, largely addressed the Preliminary Phase of mine action in Sudan.
- The tripartite agreement reached between the Government of Sudan, the South Sudan People's Movement (SPLM) and the UN on September 19th 2002, focused on appropriate ways of UN support to the development of national mine action imperatives, and resulted in a signed, Tri-partite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) being, by all parties on September 19th 2002. Under the terms of the MOU, the UN will seek to help both parties to jointly develop a national mine action strategy that meets the immediate needs of the emergency humanitarian situation and plans ahead to post conflict Sudan. Such strategy will eventually lead to a mutually agreed National Mine Action Plan. The Agreement realises the request of both parties to the UN to implement an emergency mine action project in Sudan, with the overall objective of reducing mine/UXO casualties among the civilian population and the humanitarian aid community. The signing of this MOU coincides with the Programme moving into the Consolidation Phase and the Detailed Plan will describe activities during this Phase and concentrate on the operational requirements of the MOU.
- A detailed plan/national mine action strategy to put into effect the decisions of the tripartite agreement was implemented shortly after.
- In January this year the UN, the GoS and the SPLM reached a ground-breaking agreement on a policy framework for mine action in Sudan. This agreement prescribed a "one country" approach to mine action and set the pace for peace-building in a pre-peace agreement environment.

b. The contents of the national mine action plan, agreed on between the UN, GoS and SPLM, are:

VISION

- A Sudan free from the effects of landmines and Explosive Remnants of War.
- 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 landmine issues and stigmatises the use, transference and manufacture of landmines.

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 stigmatise the use of landmines and to implement international, regional and national agreements.

STRATEGY

The strategy is implemented in 3 phases:

- Preliminary Phase: The goal of the preliminary phase is to confirm requirements and establish the framework for subsequent, effective, mine action in Sudan; including, to the maximum extent possible, proactive measures to address immediate requirements. This phase has to a large extent been completed. The objectives are:
 1. Gather information, identify, map and analyse impact of all known dangerous areas.
 2. Implement an effective information distribution network.
 3. Assist with the development of an emergency national, mine clearance capability.
 4. Ensure all mine action needs in the Nuba Mountains are actioned swiftly and effectively.
 5. Develop a relevant and effective MRE/information distribution package.
 6. Establish management presence In Khartoum with field offices at the local level.
- Consolidation Phase: The goal of the consolidation phase is to ensure that effective and sustainable structures are developed that are capable of responding to all mine action needs appropriately and in accordance with international standards, whilst maintaining international donor interest and confidence. The mine action programme in Sudan is currently in this phase. UNMAS is currently the lead Agency assisting Sudan in the implementation of the emergency mine action plan, while UNDP is addressing capacity development needs. During this phase the responsibility as the lead Agency for assistance, will pass from UNMAS to UNDP as soon as the required criteria are met. The objectives are:
 1. The intention of the UN Mine Action Programme in Sudan is to set in place and develop a national management capacity fully able to plan and manage the medium to long-term mine action requirements for Sudan.
 2. The medium and long term plan has to be based on impact based data.

3. There is a clear need to establish and strengthen sufficient regional mine action support offices that can properly liaise and deal with mine action issues on a decentralized basis, as well as supporting the different in country programmes to develop a regional strategy and approach.
 4. International cooperation in mine action, taking cognisance of broader issues in the Horn and Great Lakes as appropriate.
 5. Advocacy and implementation of all relevant treaties and agreements.
 6. To enable effective use of limited mine/UXO clearance resources, as it is fundamental to have an appropriate operational co-ordination procedure.
 7. The Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) will be used in Sudan as the basis for task planning and co-ordination.
 8. Realisation of mine action projects, taking cognisance of humanitarian and developmental aims and needs.
 9. The operational objective of mine/UXO clearance operations, both in the post-conflict situation and in the Interim Period, will be to systematically reduce the threat posed by landmines/UXO to the population and humanitarian aid staff in Sudan by a process of identification, isolation and clearance.
 10. The regulation and monitoring of demining activities are essential to ensure that mine action organisations are applying their accredited management processes and operational procedures in a manner that will result in the safe, effective and efficient clearance of land within Sudan and that the final clearance product is in accordance with the clearance requirements set in the task dossier.
 11. To provide people with accurate information via MRE and enable them to make informed decisions.
 12. To reduce risk-taking behaviour by targeted individuals and/or groups.
 13. Victim Assistance (VA) to landmine/UXO victims is a core component of UN mine action strategy.
- Implementation Phase: The goal of the implementation phase is to address immediate to medium term mine action requirements and to ensure that maximum preparatory measures are conducted to prepare for a post conflict, long term, National Mine Action Plan. The objectives will be elaborated during a national mine action planning work shop to be held during the first week of August 2004.

PRINCIPLES

The principles, to which the above objectives are implemented, are:

- Sudanese ownership and leadership through the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA).
- National capacity building with international assistance.
- Transfer of technology and capacity to Sudanese structures.
- '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.
- Accreditation of national and international organizations to be conducted by the Regional Mine Action Offices, in conjunction with UNMAS, for submission to the National Mine Action Authority for approval. Pre-conflict agreements to continue in the post-conflict interim period, unless and until decided otherwise.
- Developmental links of mine action.
- Cost effectiveness and use of appropriate and suitable technology in mine action.
- Prioritisation of mine action to be based upon an agreed needs-based assessment process, including national, regional and local levels.
- Where appropriate, demining is to start before the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement.

d. Extent to which Mine Action Planning is Incorporated into Development and Poverty Reduction Strategies

The programme has until recently been an emergency mine action programme, implemented in a conflict situation. With the onset of peace it will gradually and incrementally enter the phases of reconstruction and development and address the development and poverty reduction strategies.

e. Addressing the Needs of affected Communities

In view of the limited available assets to address the affected areas, requests are dealt with on a priority basis. These priorities are communicated with community leaders and or authorities. Not only are priorities determined on the threat, but also assessed on the needs for humanitarian relief. There the first priority is given to requests for clearing access roads. As the overall requests exceed the current capacity to respond, limited assistance is given to communities. A record is however kept of all requests made. Currently, clearance operations relate primarily to roads which are a national priority, but these do not necessarily address communities' requests. In addressing the priorities, community liaison prior to, during and on completion of clearance is of the utmost importance.

f. Intended Use of Cleared Land

The planned use of cleared land entails:

- Access to and ease of movement via road systems.
- Ability to deliver aid, relief and goods by road instead of by air thus reducing the cost of transport.
- Socio-economic and other development opportunities, particularly in agriculture.
- Improved infrastructure.

g. Utilisation of National Resources to Address the Mines/UXO Problem

h. Mine Action Legislation, Structures and Assets Deployed

Recent political developments could simplify many of the problems that faced the mine action programme in a divided Sudan, but this will not realise overnight. At the same time, this will lead to the inevitable deployment of a UN peacekeeping force, with the subsequent rapid expansion of the Sudan mine action programme. The geographical size and the diverse nature of Sudan in itself, pose difficulties in the coordination of such a wide ranging mine action program.

Despite various difficulties, efforts are on-going both to remove landmines and to spread mine awareness among the civilian population. The following organisations are deployed for the implementation of mine action activities:

Ser no	Name	Status	Activity	Remarks
1	DCA	Commercially contracted	Deminer training	UNOPS contracted
2	DCA	International NGO	Deminer training	Own funding
3	RONCO	International commercial contractor	Demining and UXO clearance	Bilateral funding
4	LMA	International NGO	Mine and UXO clearance	Bilateral funding
5	NPA	International NGO	Deminer training	Bilateral funding
6	MECHEM	International commercial contractor	Road clearance and verification	UNOPS contracted
7	OSIL	National NGO	Mine and UXO clearance	Contracted to Mechem
8	SLIRI	National NGO	Community liaison	LMA as international partner
9	FSD	International NGO	Road survey	Contracted to WFP
10	FSD	International NGO	Rapid assessment	UNOPS contracted
11	SPLA	Armed Force	MRE	Own funding
12	OSIL	Local NGO	MRE	DCA
13	SIMAS	Local NGO	MRE	Supported by FSD
14	SC US	International NGO	MRE	UNICEF contracted

The numbers of individuals involved in mine action activities are:

Ser no	Clearance	Survey	MRE	Coordination	Admin & Log Support
1	111	24	251	14	22

Other available core assets are:

- 10 x Explosives Detection Dog Teams (EDDT's).
- 1 x Mechem Explosive and Drug Detection system (MEDDS).

- 2 x Mechem Vehicle Mounted Mine detection system (MVMMDS).

III. PROGRESS MADE IN MEETING THE OBLIGATIONS OF ARTICLE 5

a. Monitoring of the National Mine Action Plan

Progress implementing the national plan is measured through monthly and annual reporting on the achievement of the objectives.

b. Clearance Statistics to Date

Land cleared:

Ser no	Year	Area reduced	Area cleared	Remarks
1	2003	15,171,400	3,112,521	
2	2004	2,184,025	608,332	

Mines and UXO Destroyed:

Ser no	A-Pers mines	A-Tank mines	Aircraft bombs	Artillery munitions	Other munitions
1	167	12	19	3768	6031

c. Benefits from the Reduction of Suspected Areas and Mine Clearance

- Populations and communities have benefited largely by the ability to move more freely. For example, IDP's in Khartoum can return to their areas of origin and goods are transported at significantly lower costs. There is very little quantifiable information available for South Sudan. Populations may indirectly and directly benefit from cleared roads and improved access but at the moment it is not possible to say with certainty in what way.
- Various most probable routes to be utilized by returning IDPs were identified, marked and/or cleared, thus allowing returnees safe and unexposed return to communities of origin
- Numerous connecting routes between villages which have been cleared now allow local populations to move freely between villages which were previously inaccessible. The freedom of movement allowed families and relatives to be re-united after several years of isolation and estrangement.
- Main roads that are cleared allow humanitarian relief work to be conducted on a more economically viable scale than in the past, as previously aid work had to be conducted by relying on mainly air transportation and reaching only areas adjacent to airstrips and airfields. The clearance of such roads is also allowing comprehensive reconstruction work on main roads, enhancing mobility for trade and

commerce, and thus allowing local populations traditional and cultural interaction on a normalized basis. The improved road network also contributes to ease of travel for collecting water by families. Water for household use has now become more accessible and on a more regular basis.

- Cleared land has been reinstated for cultivating crops thus contributing to ownership and self reliance of families and communities.
- Livestock grazing land that has been cleared for utilization has contributed to the availability of optimal grazing pastures and thereby, has also prevented the overgrazing of natural pastures available for livestock grazing.

d. Beneficiaries of MRE and Reduction in Casualties

Estimated figures for beneficiaries in 2003-4 are as follows:

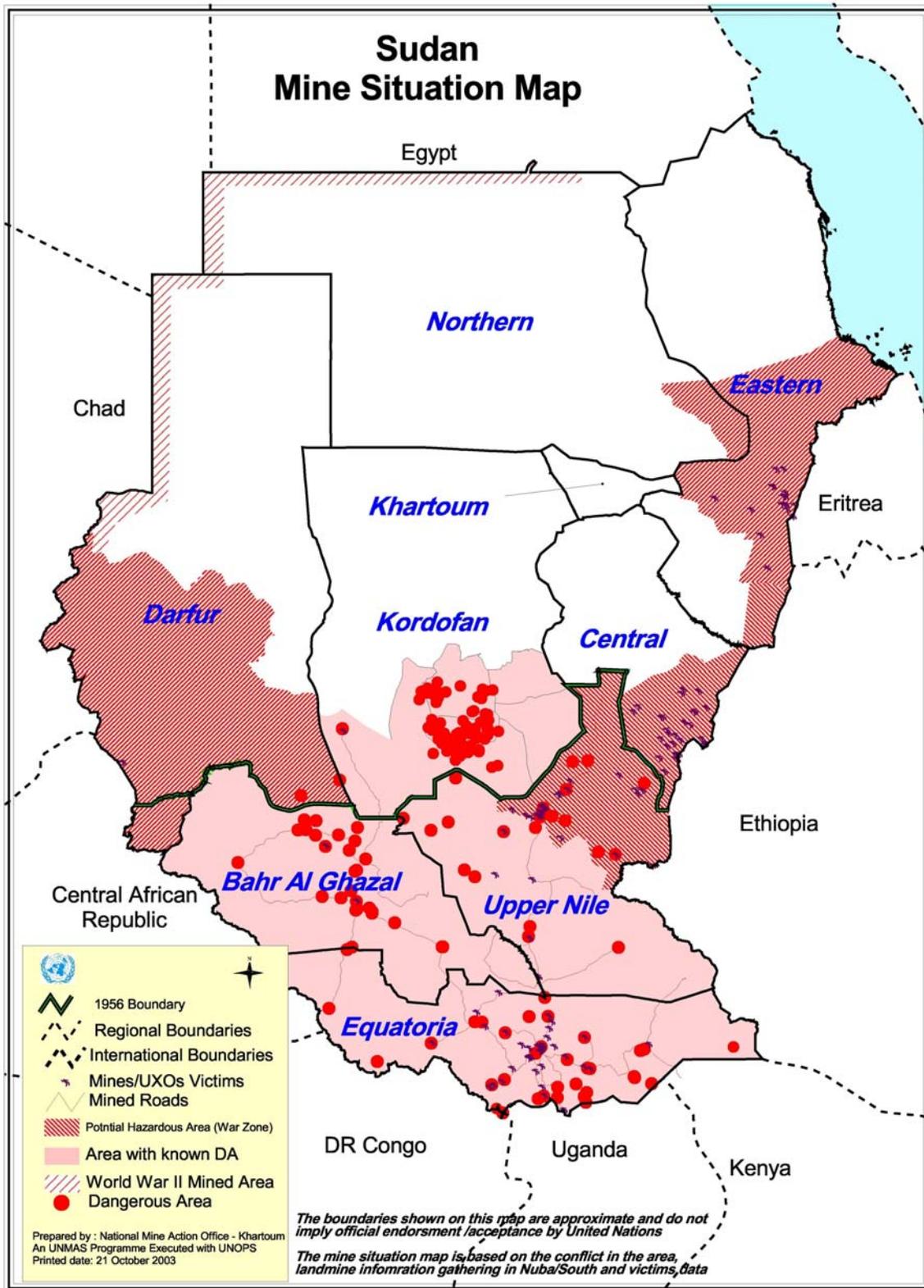
- Male (men and boys) beneficiaries reached so far are 82,758 and female (women and girls) 48,623.
- Since the beginning of this year the ratio has improved to 31.5% men, 26.3% women, 23.2% boys and 19% girls.

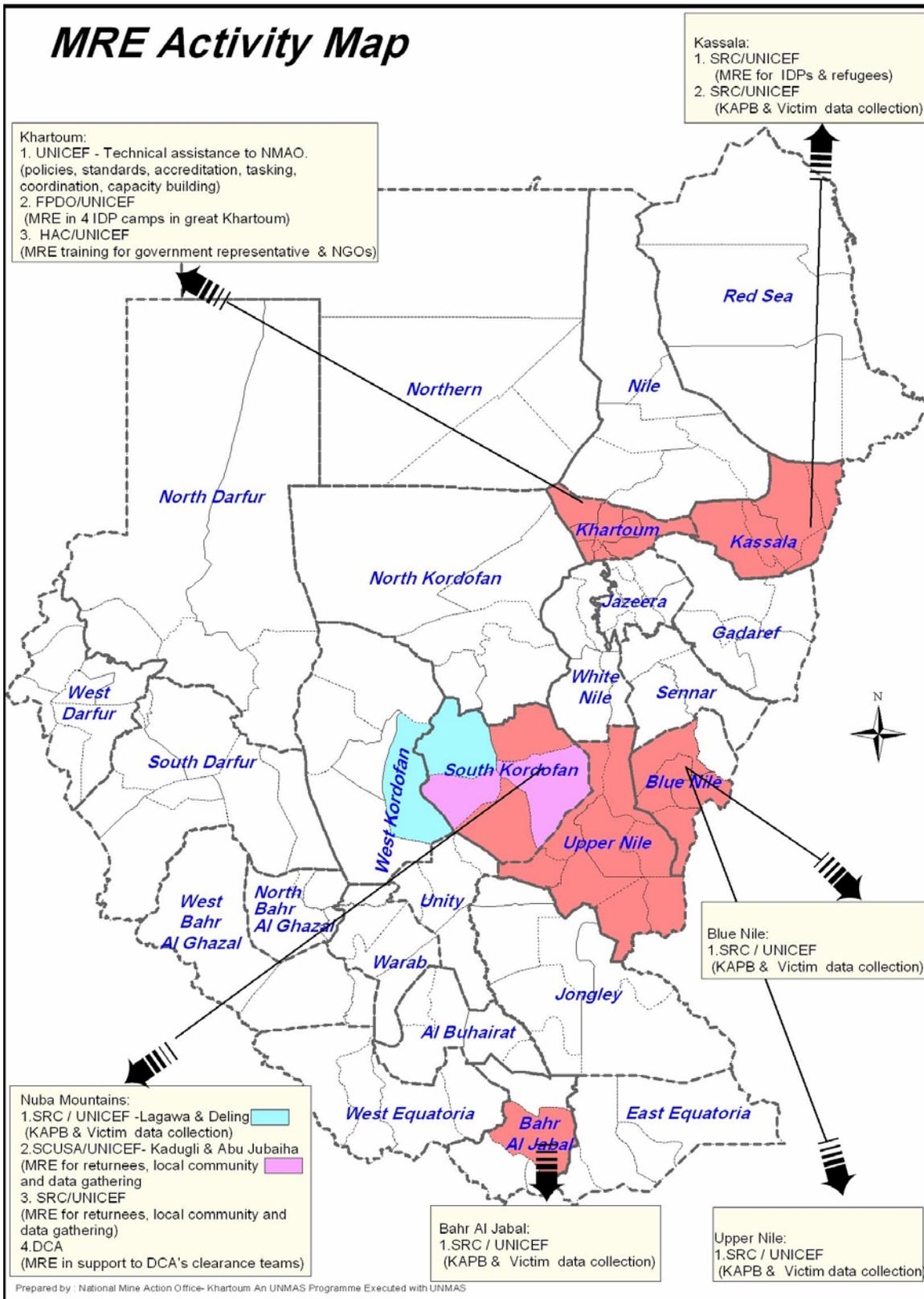
Since 2003, casualties have decreased by an estimated 80% per annum.

IV. PRIORITIES FOR OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE IN IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL PLANS

The priorities for outside assistance are:

- National capacity building and Sudanese ownership of the mine action programme.
- Assistance to the National Mine Action Authority and national coordination mechanisms.
- Direct emergency intervention to meet immediate needs and to support humanitarian interventions.
- Determining the exact extent and impact of the mines and UXO contamination.
- Supporting peace building through mine action and related interventions.
- Development of an appropriate national mine-risk education capacity that complements other humanitarian mine-action operations.
- Determine the full scope and nature of the mine/UXO victim problem and implement a sustainable national victim assistance programme.





Agencies and Organizations Operating in Mine Action				
Government Agencies	International Institutions	International NGOs	Local NGOs	Demining Agencies
National Mine Action Authority (NMAA)	United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)	International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Sudanese Red Crescent (SRC)	Swiss Federation for Demining (FSD)
National Mine Action Office (NMAO)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Save the Children (Sweden)	Organization for Care of War Disables and Protection Against Land Mines (ABRAR)	Danish Church Aid (DCA)
Southern Sudan Mine Action Directorate (SSMAD)	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Health Net International	Peace and Tolerance International Organization (PTIO)	Save the Children (USA)
Southern Sudan Mine Action Office (SSMAO)	European Union (EU)	Medical Care Doctors International (MCDI)	Sudan Landmine Information and Response Initiative (SLIRI)	Norwegian People's Aid
Sudan Campaign to Ban Landmines (SCBL)		OXFAM	Roots Organization for Development (ROD)	RONCO International
National Authority for Prosthetics and Orthotics (NAPO)			Friends of Peace and Development Organization (FPDO)	Landmine Action UK
			Operation Save Innocent Lives (OSIL)	MECHEM
			Nile Community Development Organization	SPLA
			Sudan Association for Combating Landmines (JASMAR)	Sudan Integrated Mine Action Service (SIMAS)
			Action on Disability and Development	
			Disabled People Organization	
			Rehabilitation Programme for Disabled Persons (RPDP)	