GUINEA-BISSAU MINE ACTION CENTRE

GUINEA-BISSAU is located in West Africa

Area: 36,125 km²;
Population: 1,350,000
Language: Creole, Portuguese
Capital: Bissau
Mine Action in Guinea Bissau

• Guinea Bissau signed the Ottawa Convention on 3 December, 1997 and ratified it on 22 May, 2001.

• CAAMI was created as the National Technical Coordination Structure of Humanitarian Mine Action in accordance with the decision made by the Council of Ministers (Decree 4/2001 of 10 September 2001)

• CAAMI was established in March 2001, with the support of UNDP

• CAAMI’s role is to establish mine action policy, carry out national planning, define priorities and to coordination mine action operations (including quality assurance) in Guinea Bissau

*The members of the CNDH include: Ministries of Education, Health, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, Finance, Planning, Natural Resources, Defence and Interior.

*The Minister for Former Combattants acts as Chair for the CNDH with the UNDP Resident Coordinator acting as Co-Chair and Rapporteur

*Membership in the CNDH also includes other UN agencies, as well as national and international NGOs
Total Mine Action Staff

Admin/Logistics:
NGO HUMAID/HI : 16 Nat.Staff + 3 Int.
NGO LUTCAM : 22 Nat.Staff

Coordination Staff (CAAMI):
19 National Staff + 1 Int. (CTA)

Mine/UXO Clearance and MRE:
109 Deminers + 39 Admin/Log = 148 Persons involved in Mine Clearance.
111 activists + 310 facilitators + 81 trained teachers

Total number of people involved in Mine Action = 1175
Problems

Mine/UXO Context

- Mine and UXO contamination affects both urban and rural populations in Guinea Bissau.

- Roughly 15% of Guinea-Bissau’s survivors are children.

- Mines and UXO have a significant impact livelihoods by depriving the population of agricultural land (i.e. for cashew nut cultivation)

- Roughly 25% of accidents are linked to UXO.
The Human Impact of Mines/UXO

- In 2004, 29 people were injured by mines and UXO. During the first quarter of 2005, 2 more accidents have taken place. Since the end of the Independence War (1974), a total of 667 victims of mines and UXO have been registered.

Landmine injuries have occurred throughout the country:

- Northern region (35%)
- Bissau capital and immediate surrounding (25%)
- Southern part of the country (19%)
- Eastern region (21%).

Defining the problem

- Establishment of IMSMA Database

General and technical survey have been carried out for areas in and around Bissau.
Data Collection in Bissau Area
• Areas outside Bissau will require impact and technical survey

1) Establishment of priorities
2) Definition of problem

National View of Contamination
National Plan Phase I:

• Mine Risk Education for all communities at risk

• Clearance and marking in Bissau and the surrounding area
National Plan: Phase II

- Finish clearing mined areas in Bissau (including QA)
- Begin Battle Area Clearance and EOD in Bissau
- Survey/impact assessment outside Bissau
- Clearance of suspected areas outside Bissau

Critical path

- Assessment of impact and technical survey outside the capital
- Database enhancement
- Establishment of priorities for clearance and MRE outside Bissau
- Revision of five-year work plan
- Budget revision exercise
**Strategic Planning**

- Essential component of Phase II
- New survey/assessment data will allow new series of priorities to be considered
- Evaluation of output and productivity from Phase I
Support to National Education System

- 50 teachers trained in Bissau
  (1400 students)
- 31 teachers trained in the Regions
  (1200 students)

MRE

Building a community network:

10 NGO implementing organisations with:

Bissau:
- 89 Activists
- 160 Facilitators

Regions:
- 22 Activists
- 150 Facilitators

Total number of MRE trainers:
111 activists + 310 facilitators + 81 teachers = 502
Survey

• Construction of IMSMA database
• Expert opinion collected and recorded in IMSMA;
• General and Technical Survey carried out in Bissau;
• Most areas in and surrounding Bissau have been marked;

Clearance

• 2 national mine clearance NGOs trained and operating according to IMAS standards

- NGO – HUMAID 44
- NGO – LUTCAM 65

109 Deminers
Clearance

- 808,739.84m² cleared since 1999

- Completion of most high impact area in Bissau

- Drop in casualty rates

### Summary of Clearance to Date

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Area Cleared</th>
<th>Casualties</th>
<th>Casualties</th>
<th>Drop in Casualties</th>
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a) Ordnance of origin outside clearance areas

May, 2005
Priorities for Assistance

Impact Assessment/Survey

- Need for enhanced information:
  1) strategic planning
  2) priority-setting
  3) development of work plans
  4) coordination
Mine Clearance Operations

- **As mine clearance is completed in Bissau, operations will have to begin in the regions**
  1) capacity-building support for NGOs operationally moving outside the capital for the first time
  2) resources to carry out work outside Bissau (additional equipment, supplies and transport requirements).
  3) additional resources to increase productivity and output
  4) support for Quality Assurance element of work outside Bissau

EOD Training/Operations

- **Need for increased capacity-building and operational support for battle area clearance and EOD**
  1) Increasing UXO contamination being found in mined areas
  2) Considerable areas contaminated by UXO alone
  3) Abandoned munitions
Cooperation

- Sustainable support for the national coordination body is necessary to ensure that Guinea-Bissau can meet all its obligations under Article 5

1) Coordination/development planning
2) Information collection/maintenance
3) Operational planning
4) Quality assurance
5) Reporting

Conclusion

Guinea Bissau could be one of the first post-conflict African countries to complete its Article 5 requirements, if resources are available to implement our programme!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION