

## **Sudan Statement on the clearance of mines in mined area**

**Presented by Mr. Al Awad El-bashir,  
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Your highness, Prince Mired Raad, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

Mine Action remains a high priority for the Republic of the Sudan at level of the Government of National Unity and Government of Southern Sudan. The mission of the Sudan is, a Sudan free from landmines by 2014 as stated by the President of the Republic and which is the Treaty deadline for Sudan.

With the necessary legislative and institutional framework in place, the government has turned its attention to the development of mine/ERW clearance assets.

As part of the national mine/ERW clearance capacity, with funds from the Government of UK, the US Department of State and Government of National Unity and technical assistance from UNDP, Sudan has trained and deployed 110 deminers.

The national teams have made two key achievements until now. The verification and clearance of the Babanusa-Wau railway line was successfully completed in late June 2007 and officially handed over to the Sudan Railway Corporation on 02 July 07 for reconstruction. The reconstruction on Railway line has already commenced. A total of 13 antipersonnel, 3 anti tank/vehicle and approximately 35,000 pieces of various types of explosive devices/ammunitions were found and subsequently destroyed during the clearance operations.

Verification and clearance of a total of 234.7 kilometers of high priority roads were completed in late October 2007 and the roads handed over to the National High Way Authority on 10 November 2007 for reconstruction. A total of 144 anti tank mines, 34 anti personnel mines and approximately 20,000 various types of explosive devices/ammunitions were found and subsequently destroyed during the clearance operations.

Currently, with support from the Government of the UK, 120 deminers are being trained at the Nairobi International Mine Action Centre (IMATC). We hope to deploy these deminers to the field as well as soon as possible. In addition, the US DOS has provided approximately US\$ 420,000 to establish six field offices of the NMAC and SSDC and has provided to approximately US\$ 700,000 to for the training of the staff of the NMAC and SSDC in various management fields through Cranfield University.

With support from the United Nations agencies and national and international mine action organizations the Sudan is making good progress in clearing mines in mined

areas. At of July 2007 of the 2,319 dangerous areas identified through survey activities, 952 have been cleared. A total of 24.3 million square meters of high priority land has been cleared/verified and released for productive use. Route assessment and clearance has opened up more then 20,700 km of road across Sudan for public use. A total of 4,734 anti-personnel mines and 2,172 anti-tank mines have been destroyed, in addition to 922,265 unexploded ordnance (UXO) and small arms ammunition.

Mr. President

The government strives to educate population at risk (IDPs, returnees, farmers, cattle herders, and drivers and other local population), about the risks of mine/UXOs through various means and methods in the affected areas. MRE provides people with the knowledge and skills for how to live in a mine/ERW contaminated environment until the threat is removed.

Mr. President,

In my county the key approaches to mine action are:

- Emergency MRE through implemented by NGOs with over 40 MRE teams operating in various parts of the country,
- Integrating MRE to schools activities and other community services by training schools teachers and community volunteers,
- Providing MRE through public information and mass media, printed materials, radio, TV etc.
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The achievements of the MRE are as follows:

- Over 1, 174,00 individuals participated in the MRE sessions with NGOs,
- 1,100 MR community volunteers/school teachers have been trained
- More than 800,000 copies of different MRE materials developed and distributed among at risk groups.
- Several training courses organized and conducted for national staff,

Mr. Presidents,

As far as domestic legislation is concerned, in my country for the legislation to be developed it has to pass through a lengthy process from one department to another. I do not want to bother you with the details. However, we are almost finished with it. Hopefully, by early next year, it will come out.

As far as government contribution to mine action is concerned, mine action has been included in the national budget at the level of the GoNU and the GOSS and fund allocated to mine action in 2006 and 2007. Salaries and all other entitlement of about 80 management staff, and all operations and field deployment of the 110 national deminers is covered by the national budget. In addition GONU has procured one million dollars of equipment to equip the national teams. The Republic of the Sudan is in the process of

increasing its resources to mine action. As an indicative of its long term commitment, mine action has been included in the Five Year national development strategy with a National Mine Action Strategic Framework already developed and passed by the parliament.

Our key challenge is the Government has received very limited funds from the donor community for national mine/ERW clearance capacity and that is only through UNDP. Until now only the government of the UK has contributed about US\$ 300,000 for the training and equipping of the national demining teams and US Department of the State has provided one million dollars to provide technical support and equipment to the national mine/ERRW clearance assets.

Therefore, my appeal to the donor community is to increase its support to the development of the national mine/ERW clearance assets to the country stand on its own feet. We are in need of equipping the additional 120 deminers currently being trained and providing them with technical support and to expand the national mine/ERW clearance assets.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our donors, particularly the USA and the UK for their generous support to the capacity development of national assets. We would like to welcome any financial and technical assistance in this regard from the UN and our donors to sustain these mine/ERW clearance assets and development national management capacities.

Thank you for your attention,