

Eritrea's Statement in the 27- 31 May 2013, standing committee meeting

Mr Chairman
Excellencies
Mine Action colleagues
Ladies and Gentlemen

According to the Eritrean Mine Action proposal planned during the extension request period, the crucial objective was to conduct nationwide resurveys parallel to the demining operations and identify the actual remaining un-cleared mined areas by the time we submit our second extension request period which is to happen before the next standing committee meeting in 2014.

Dear Mine Action colleagues

In addition to your broad awareness and assessments for all the circumstances, it is worthy to remind you that the Mine Action project is ongoing but still depending on the national capacity without external support for operational funds, demining equipments, transportation facilities, etc.

For sustainable reliability of the program, our main source for man power deployment in the field of operations is the military engineering department from the ministry of defense, where deminers who were trained and certified with Standard Operating Procedures are tasked from among those teams but under the supervision and quality assurance of the Eritrean Demining Authority.

Since the extension request period, that is in 2011, 2012 until the past 4 months of 2013, Eritrea has been conducting resurveys and clearance in certain locations as a result of which the following operational progress is achieved

A. None- Technical Survey Progress

For the past 5 months since the 12th meeting of states parties (December 2012) number of identified mine free areas by none-technical survey in the regions/zobas Debub and Gash-barka are **18** and this covers total area of **6,118,868** square meters. To specify it, **6** are in Gash Barka with an area of **1,705,462** square meters and **12** in Debub with an area of **4,413,406** square meters.

Therefore, added to the figure reported in the 12th meeting of states parties, total area cleared and verified since our extension request is **44,866,487 sq.mtrs** which is rounded to be about **45 sq.kms**.

Number of cleared mined areas reported during our extension request since the LIS were **79**. Then we reported the progress of **2011** and **2012** all together as **129**. The sum for these figures is **208**. So, the sum of cleared and resurvey verified number of areas since our extension request until the end of April 2013 is **147** and since the LIS is **226**.

Detailed progress of each region can be referred in the table below.

Zoba (Region)	Verified number of mine free areas	Verified mine free Area in Sq.m
Debub	27	4,743,921
Debubawi K.B	4	10,833,676
Semienawi K.B	16	5,175,034
Maakel	34	6,865,064
Gash Barka	22	5,384,046
Anseba	9	5,487,644
	112	38,489,385

B. Clearance Progress

Zoba/Region	Number of Cleared areas	Cleared area in Sq.Mtrs
Anseba	33	3,227,860
Gash.Barka	2	1,210,458
Total	35	4,438,318 4.5

In the moment of non-technical survey updating, I would like to note referring the landmine monitor 2012 reports listing Eritrea with countries

not on track citing that resurvey assumed to be completed in 2012 is not accomplished. To clarify, let me reiterate the statement written in our extension request. “we assume that 50% of the remaining LIS resulted areas Will be reduced by the end of 2012”.and according to the datas of our progress presented here, we believe it has relevance to our projection.

Regarding the progress for Mine Risk Education pillar of Mine Action in the year 2012, although activities of public gathering carried out by the teams and community volunteers was not as frequent as the previous years, MRE is conducted on certain occasions such as religious holidays, public festivals, hospitals, health centers, schools etc. by visiting most of the regions, namely Maakel, Debub, Anseba, Gash Barka and Northen Red Sea with an outcome of about 93000 beneficiary people.

Adding this to the progress since our extension request, beneficiary people were around **550,000**.

**Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlem**

The Eritrean government is well aware that there remains extensive task that need to be carried out in the second half of this year 2013, mainly in resurveying and is looking forward for a better operational progress to achieve the objectives planned until our second extension request period which according to the time frame was proposed to be submitted in the first quarter of **2014**.

Finally,

I would like to point out that, indifferent to the deficiencies and other challenges encountered, the Eritrean Government remains committed and is endeavoring to achieve its objectives for Article 5 obligations of the convention and for the full success of the National Mine Action Program in general.

I thank you

