

ZIMBABWE UPDATE TO THE 16 MSP ON 18-21 DECEMBER 2017 VIENNA

(PLENARY)

INTRODUCTION

1. Your excellence the president of the 16MSP, distinguished Delegates, let me take this opportunity to give you an update on Zimbabwe's mine action programme. Zimbabwe minefields were laid along the country's borders with one further inland by the Rhodesian Army during the liberation war. Out of the eight (8) distinct mined areas inherited at independence, three (3) were cleared and five (5) are still work in progress. It is estimated that approximately three million (3,000,000) anti-personnel mines were laid. Since independence, the Government has made every effort to rid the country of these mines that continue to injure, maim and in worst cases kill both humans and livestock.

2. Zimbabwe failed to complete clearance of mined areas in her jurisdiction by March 2009 as obliged by the Convention. Since then the country has been granted four extension periods. The fourth and current extension period expiring on 01 January 2018 was granted at the Third Review Conference in June 2014. Zimbabwe now speaks with certainty the remaining contamination after successfully carrying out re-surveys of all contaminated areas. Having witnessed extensive capacity building in the year 2016, the year 2017 saw the clearance figures going up above what had been projected during the fourth extension request in 2013 as shown on the table.

PROGRESS TO DATE

3. Zimbabwe successfully addressed most issues raised at the Maputo Review Conference. Resurveys of mined areas was completed during this extension period and a number of additional activities in addressing the remaining challenge have since been carried out. The fourth extension period also saw the number of operators increasing to five that is National Mine Clearance Unit, HALO Trust, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), MAG and APOPO. All these are operational save for APOPO which is still mobilising resources and may start operations early 2018.

4. **Clearance.** The original contamination was ascertained to have been 310.65km². Vigorous land release activities over the years reduced the figure to 66,23km² by December 2016. The capacity building efforts by the operators and the Government have since transformed to increased annual land release figures. During the fourth extension period, Zimbabwe managed to strike off **161, 31km²** to remain with **61.9km²** as at 30 November 2017. This is spread and allocated to organisations as shown on the slide.

No.	Mined Area	Remaining Area (m) ²	Responsible Organisation
1	Musengezi to Mazowe River	12,291,301	HALO Trust
2	Mazowe River to Rwenya River	11,277,700	MAG
3	Sango Border Post to Mwenezi River	17,245,997	NMCU
4	Sango Border Post to Mwenezi River (Cordon Sanitaire)	7,196,038	APOPO
5	Rusitu to Muzite Mission	8,595,981	NPA
6	Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill	5,253,010	NPA
7	Lusulu	56,000	NMCU
Total		61,916,027	

NOTE

Let me hasten to say the actual remaining contamination on the ground is now less than the figure shown on the screen. There are areas cleared by HALO Trust NPA and NMCU but have not yet been deducted from that figure at the time of preparing this presentation.

5. The National Mine Clearance Unit continue to work on the Sango Border to Crooks Corner minefield. Part of this minefield was allocated to APOPO and they are yet to start clearance. A lot of progress has been achieved in the Musengezi to Mazowe River stretch where HALO Trust is working. Mines Advisory Group (MAG) deployed to start operation early this month in the Mazowe to Rwenya River area. Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) has also extended their operations to cover both Sheba forest to Leacon Hill and the Rusitu to Muzite Mission Minefields.

6. The National Strategic Plan. On completion of re-surveys that gave a more accurate figure of the remaining contamination, Zimbabwe and its partners embarked on the drafting of a National Strategic Plan with the assistance of GICHD. The National Strategic Plan document was approved by the Government and awaits the formal launch. This was initially scheduled for November but due to other national activities was postponed to January 2018.

7. Mine Risk Education. ZIMAC and the operators educate people in mine-affected areas on the dangers of mines/ERWs. Mine risk education teams make use of exhibitions and community social gatherings to disseminate information. The Zimbabwe National Army holds an annual MRE Music gala in mine affected areas to give awareness to the affected communities. Presently, shortage of MRE material hampers progress in this area. On the other hand, HALO Trust and NPA conducted community liaison within their areas.

8. Victim Assistance. In Zimbabwe mine victims are treated like all other people living with disabilities under the Department of Social Welfare in the Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare. ZIMAC is making efforts to maintain an up to date database for landmine and ERW victims. Known victims are sometimes assisted with artificial limbs. HALO Trust have since assisted over 50 victims with prosthetic limbs.

POST CLEARANCE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9. Various areas cleared during this extension period have already been put to good use resulting in increased business opportunities in agriculture and unhindered movements across mined areas to conduct daily chores. This is evident in the cleared Burma Valley, Limpopo to Mwenezi River and Mukumbura minefield areas where groundnut farming and free movement of people and livestock is now taking place. Without any hindrances.

CAPACITY BUILDING

10. There has been a lot of progress on Zimbabwe's demining effort in 2017. All three demining organisations namely NMCU, HALO Trust and NPA increased their capacities this year, the result being remarkable progress on land release.

- ❖ The NMCU increased its deminers to 150 up from 120 courtesy of equipment provided by ICRC in 2016. It is most likely to increase to 180 in 2018.
- ❖ HALO Trust increased in both deminers and equipment with the incorporation of mechanical assets for deeply buried mines.
- ❖ NPA brought on board MDDs as a pilot project. However, NPA has since scaled down on their deminers due to funding. They remain optimistic that they are likely to get more funding for 2018 and beyond.

In addition to the three, I am happy to mention that MAG deployed last week and they are now on the ground. I expect APOPO to start operations early next year (2018).

Given the above scenario, I expect more land releases from 2018 going forward

CURRENT EXTENSION REQUEST

11. Having a clear picture of the remaining contamination, Zimbabwe now seeks an eight (8) year extension, January 2018 to December 2025, during which it is envisaged that at current funding, clearance would most likely be completed. The 8-year period requested is the minimum period expected to do the job with the current capacity and certainly Zimbabwe cannot complete the remaining contamination in a lesser period unless more players come on board. During the extension period, ZIMAC will revise the work plans yearly so that it remains relevant and more accurately direct operations. These revisions will be reported on an annual basis through Article 7 report.

CONCLUSION

12. Zimbabwe remains committed to her Article 5 Obligations and always cherish the support being received from other state parties, NGOs, GICHD and the ISU. The achievement of the 2025 goal of a Zimbabwe and the world at large free of mines is only possible if such cooperation is something to go about. Together we can conquer the landmine menace.

I Thank You



ZIMBABWE UPDATE TO THE 16TH MSP: VIENNA



Goal: 'A mine/ERW-free Zimbabwe where women, girls, boys and men safely engage in sustainable livelihood activities and where mine/ERW victims are fully integrated into society'

Introduction

- The landmine problem in Zimbabwe can be traced back to the country's war of liberation.
- Zimbabwe is committed to rid the country of mines which continue to injure maim and in worst cases kill both humans and livestock



Introduction

- Zimbabwe has been granted four extension periods
- Year 2017 saw the clearance figures going up above what had been projected in the 2014 extension request.

	Expected clearance during 2017 (square meters) (As per the 2014 extension request)	Actual clearance during 2017 (square meters) (As at 30 November 2017)
Musengezi to Rwenya	554 000	2 268 929
Sango Border Post to Crooks Corner	600 000	817 583
Rusitu to Muzite Mission	350 000	106 042
Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill	No clearance operations	2 067 383
Lusulu	No clearance operations	No clearance operations
Total	1 504 000	5 259 937

PROGRESS TO DATE

- Two key conditions of granting the fourth extension period were:
 - Zimbabwe was to come up with an accurate extent of the remaining contamination.
 - Establish a workable plan of action.

Clearance

- Vigorous Land release activities over the years reduced the figure to 66.23km² by December 2016
- Zimbabwe managed to strike off **161, 31km²** to remain with **61.9km²** as at 30 November 2017

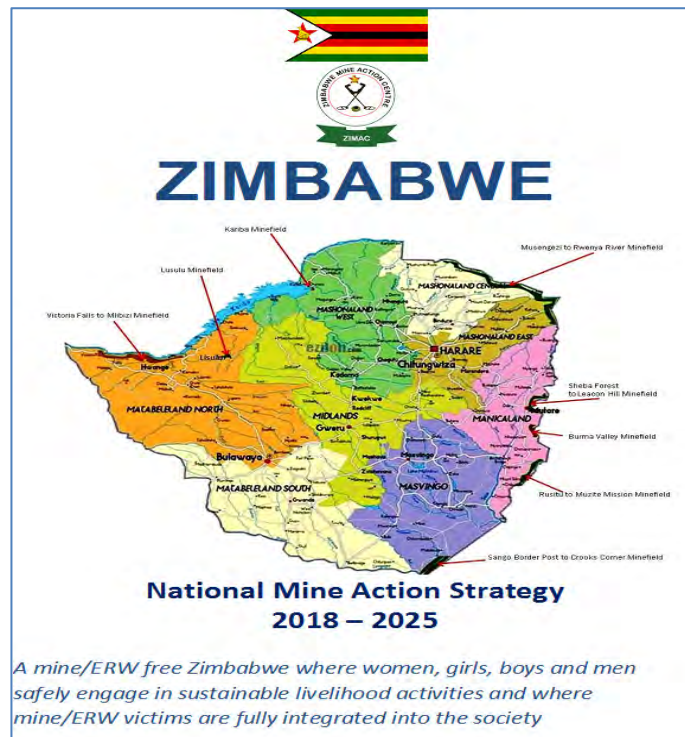
No.	Mined Area	Linear Distance (km)	Remaining Area (m) ²	Responsible Organisation
1	Musengezi to Mazowe River	229.00	12,291,301	HALO Trust
2	Mazowe River to Rwenya River	130.00	11,277,700	MAG
3	Sango Border Post to Mwenezi River	35.00	17,245,997	NMCU
4	Sango Border Post to Mwenezi River (Cordon Sanitaire)	35.00	7,196,038	APOPO
5	Rusitu to Muzite Mission	71.80	8,595,981	NPA
6	Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill	54.00	5,253,010	NPA
7	Lusulu	1.50	56,000	NMCU
Total		556.3	61,916,027	

The National Strategic Plan

- Drafting of the new Zimbabwe National Mine Action Strategic Plan commenced in December 2016 with the assistance of the GICHD and mine action stakeholders.
- The National Strategy was approved by the government and awaits official launch in January.



Photo 1. Delegates during the National Strategic Plan Workshop



Mine Risk Education

- Mine risk education teams make use of exhibitions and community gatherings to disseminate information
- Zimbabwe National Army holds an annual MRE Music Gala In mine affected areas



- Shortage of MRE material hampers progress in this area

Victim Assistance

- Zimbabwe is making frantic efforts to maintain an up to date database for landmine and ERW victims
- HALO Trust have since assisted over 50 victims with prosthetic limbs



Post Clearance Activities

- Zimbabwe completed clearance in Burma Valley, Limpopo to Mwenezi River and Mukumbura areas resulting in increased agricultural business opportunities and free movement of people and livestock



Capacity Building

- All three demining organisations namely NMCU, HALO Trust and NPA increased their capacities this year, the result being remarkable progress on land release.
- The NMCU increased its deminers to 150 up from 120 courtesy of equipment provided by ICRC in 2016.



Capacity Building

- HALO Trust increased in both deminers and equipment with the incorporation of mechanical assets for deeply buried mines.
- NPA brought on board MDDs as a pilot project

MAG deployed last week and they are now on the ground



Current Extension Request

- Zimbabwe now seeks an eight (8) year extension, January 2018 to December 2025



- ZIMAC will revise the work plans yearly so that it remains relevant and more accurately direct operations

Conclusion