



**GOVERNO DA GUINÉ-
BISSAU**

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CENTRO NACIONAL DE COORDENAÇÃO DA AÇÃO ANTI-MINAS (CAAMI)

GABINETE DO DIRETOR NACIONAL

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti- Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction



Request for Extension of its Article 5 Deadline

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Submitted to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation in August 2022

Contact

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1. The request contains a number of activities that must take place by the end of 2022 in order for Guinea-Bissau to comply with the timeline in the request and initiate survey in 2023. The request would benefit would welcome an update on the implementation of these activities and concrete information on when the activities will be undertaken and the impact that delays, to date, have had on the timeline for implementation.

As described in the extension request, some activities must take place by the end of 2022, as prerequisites for a favourable environment to field activities. These activities are related to the development of critical national standards and of an Information Management System, to the preparation of the non-technical survey and technical activities notably in terms of procedures, people skills and equipment, as well as to resource mobilisation to support activities from 2022 onwards.

With regard to resource mobilisation, some good progress has been made since the extension was submitted in April 2022:

- On June 22nd, Guinea-Bissau held an individualized approach event on the occasion of the APMBC intersessional meetings in Geneva; the national NGO HUMAID and the international NGO MAG contributed to this event. Eight states¹ as well as eight organisations² participated to the event.
- After this event, the Director of the CAAMI has been approached by several stakeholders who expressed their interest in supporting the action against the mines in Guinea-Bissau: the ambassadors in Geneva of Netherlands, European Union, France, Thailand, Japan, as well as the ambassador of Angola at the African Union and the Angolan Mine Action Centre. The Director of the CAAMI also had contact with the Global Mine Action and Development Advisor for the PNUD.
- The next step for Guinea-Bissau is to organize by the end of 2022 a national workshop in Bissau to support the resource mobilisation.
- Thanks to MAG's facilitation, the CAAMI's director initiated a direct contact with the GICHD in June. Mid-July 2022, Guinea-Bissau sent a formal letter to the GICHD requesting their support in developing the CAAMI's capacities.

¹ i.e., Australia, France, Japan, Netherlands, Switzerland, Sudan, Thailand, and United States

² i.e., European Union, GICHD, HALO Trust, HI, ICBL, MAG, Mine Action Review, and NPA



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In addition, MAG has obtained some funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support the Mine Action programme in Guinea-Bissau, starting in August 2022. Thanks to this support, the CAAMI expects good achievements in the second semester 2022 in regard to the plan proposed in the extension request:

- MAG will support the CAAMI in developing, in priority, the critical national standards (accreditation, land release, non-technical survey, technical survey, explosive ordnance disposal).
- The CAAMI and MAG will evaluate the best options for the CAAMI to acquire a suitable and sustainable information management system. Note that a technician was contracted in June for retrieving the data from CAAMI's old server; unfortunately, it was not successful. Thus, relevant old data will have to be entered again from paper archives in the new system.
- MAG will also identify national partners, and work with them in building their resources and capabilities so as to be able to start the conduction of Mine Action operations (EORE, non-technical survey, technical survey, post clearance impact assessment) in 2023.

Despite this favourable context and encouraging progress, Guinea-Bissau would like to highlight that the level of funding is very much inferior to the estimated budget proposed in the extension request for the period 2022-2024. If the activities planned under the mobilisation phase in 2022 should be only moderately affected, the insufficient financial coverage of operations costs is going to impact the implementation phase. For instance, with only 8 field surveyors (as currently funded under MAG's project) in comparison to the 48 officers considered as necessary by Guinea-Bissau, it is estimated that the non-technical survey would take six times longer than originally planned. For this reason, the CAAMI seeks to reinforce the mobilisation of resources for its Mine Action programme; more details are provided in response to the fourth question of the Committee.



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2. While the request indicates that the Programme will aim to promote “at all stages of its programme gender and diversity inclusion”, it focuses largely on staffing. The request would benefit from more detail on how the national mine action authority plans to incorporate gender and diversity, including in beneficiary engagement and to achieve project impact.

In its extension request, Guinea-Bissau mentioned that the gender and diversity will be promoted at all stages of its Mine Action programme. The focus was made on two main fields, i.e., EORE activities and reinforcement of the CAAMI’s capacities. However, Guinea-Bissau intends to have a broader integration of gender and diversity in its programme. The key goals will be that the needs and perspectives of all groups are considered at all stages, and that the standards, national strategy, workplans and activities are tailored to be gender and diversity sensitive.

Concretely, Guinea-Bissau will look for a partner to conduct a gender and diversity analysis at the latest in the first quarter 2023. The main study’s objectives are to illustrate key findings and provide concrete recommendations for enhancing the consideration of these gender and diversity aspects into the programming and implementation, and to ensure that they are properly monitored and evaluated. The specific objectives are to understand what are the different groups to consider at community level, how to access them, how they are differently affected by explosive ordnance, and what the positive and negative consequences of Mine Action activities can have on them. Based on findings, all Mine Action planning and operations could be tailored following a gender and diversity sensitive approach. Criteria will be defined to measure the consultation and participation of the different groups in the prioritization and land release processes, as well as their representation among the beneficiaries of the Mine Action programme. To this purpose, the CAAMI will require all data to be disaggregated on sex and age, as well as on disability when feasible and relevant.



3. The request indicates that “the experience from other affected countries demonstrate that the presence of landmines and ERW poses a serious obstacle to socio-economic growth and development, which may indirectly contribute to the resurgence of instability and violence”. The request would benefit from additional information on the current socio-economic impact caused by the identified suspected hazardous areas that can be acquired through community focal points.

Guinea-Bissau first makes the assumption that the contamination by landmines and ERW has an impact on its population and that mine action can reduce this impact based on international frameworks and studies. For instance, the study “Leaving no one behind: mine action and the sustainable development goals” (GICHD & UNCP, 2015) concludes that “*mine action not only reduces violence and casualties, but also enables recovery, peacebuilding, resilience and broader sustainable development objectives, particularly in fragile states.*” It is today broadly accepted that Mine Action is at the nexus of humanitarian, development, peace and security.

At national level, no recent investigation on the socio-economic impact of the contamination has been done, but there was an impact survey done in 2008 by Landmine Action. In this study, it was mentioned that 81% of the communities affected by landmines and Explosive Remnants of War were “*compact villages relying on small-scale agriculture for survival. Although the overall scale of contamination and impact [was] limited, there [was] evidence from the survey that clearance will ameliorate currently blocked or compromised access to agricultural and pasture land for almost half of these communities.*” Similarly, it is expected that the impact of some of the contamination that was previously unknown continues to hamper the access of the affected population to individual and collective socio-economic opportunities.

At last, and as mentioned in the extension request, Guinea-Bissau has to date some evidence about the existence of 52 hazardous areas (9 confirmed and 43 suspected, which all need to be resurveyed and confirmed) based on reports from the population. They represent a direct threat to local communities. In addition, there is direct evidence of 13 accidents involving 73 direct victims in the last 10 years, from these accidents which have been brought to the CAAMI’s attention.

Guinea-Bissau does not plan to conduct a stand-alone socio-economic survey as baseline to its activities. Instead, some socio-economic criteria would be integrated into the prioritisation process that will be developed (e.g., blockage of arable lands) to guide where the resources allocated to the land release process should go first. The data to provide this information could be part of the non-technical survey questionnaires. In addition, the CAAMI will integrate into its national standards some requirements about post-clearance impact assessment.



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4. The request indicates that a key factor in implementation will be the mobilization of national and international resources. Given the positive impact an increase in the national financial contribution can have on international support, the request would benefit from any updated information on the response from the Ministry of Defense to the revised budget presented by CAMI. The request would further benefit from an update on any efforts to reach out to donors as well as to organization, such as the UNDP, which were previously involved in mobilizing resource for mine action in Guinea-Bissau to support the implementation of the plan.

In the first section of this document, Guinea-Bissau has highlighted its progress in terms of resource mobilisation, but has also mentioned that the current financial support is insufficient for the proper implementation of the plan proposed in the extension request. The CAAMI is aware of the necessity to reinforce the mobilisation of financial, technical or material resources for the Mine Action programme, both at national and international level. As part of the development of its capacities, the CAAMI is going to be assisted by MAG in developing a resource mobilisation strategy involving key stakeholders mapping in country and at the regional level for visibility, funding and advocacy.

At national level, there has been some recent turn-over at ministerial level. The new Minister of Defence and Fatherland Freedom Fighters, which the CAAMI reports to, has been nominated in June. In this context, the CAAMI's objectives are:

- To engage proactively with the Ministry of Defence, presenting the national Mine Action programme, the related budget and challenges;
- To advocate for an increased contribution of the government to the Mine Action sector, with a target of at least 25% of the annual budget proposed in the extension request to be covered by the government of Guinea-Bissau, based on the assumption of political stability;
- To conduct a stakeholder mapping of development actors and international organisations to engage with them and to identify potential synergies.

At regional and international level, the goals of the CAAMI are

- To organise a resource mobilisation workshop in Bissau in the second semester 2022 (as mentioned earlier);
- To get the support of the Geneva International Centre in key areas such as governance, risk management, quality management, and/or information management;
- To continue and develop liaison and coordination with Mine Action operators such as MAG to encourage, guide and support fundraising.