
**Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention
on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel
Mines and on Their Destruction**

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Item 12 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of request submitted under Article 5

**Request for an extension of the deadline for
completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines
in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention**

Executive summary

Submitted by Sudan

1. The Government of Sudan (GoS) signed the Mine Ban Treaty on 4 December 1997 and ratified it on 13 October 2003. On 23 March 2013, Sudan submitted a request to extend its Article 5 deadline to 1 April 2019. The request was unanimously agreed by the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties, (13MSP). A second request for an extended period of four years (1 April 2019 - 1 April 2023) was submitted by Sudan. The second extension request was agreed by the Seventeenth Meeting of State Parties (17MSP).
2. Based on data analysis of the ongoing survey and clearance efforts, the available resources and clearance capacity, security situations, challenging context and environment, economic crises in the country, and in consultation with the mine action stakeholders, it is realized and concluded that, Sudan will not be able to complete the clearance of all registered anti-personnel contamination by April 2023.
3. Sudan requests an additional four years, (1 April 2023 - 1 April 2027) to complete the clearance of anti-personnel mines and become Convention compliant.
4. The nature and extent of Sudan's original challenge has been described in detail in Sudan's previous request (2018).
5. The contaminated areas with mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) at the start of Sudan's second request (1 April 2019) was located in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states and West Kordofan (Abyei). The contamination consisted of 98 hazardous areas measuring 19,285,410 square metres, including 53 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 2,418,930 square metres and 45 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 16,866,480 square metres.
6. During the period of the previous extension request (1 April 2019 – 31 December 2021) Sudan released a total of 19 anti-personnel mined areas measuring a total of 7,926,644 square metres, including 6,965,655 square metres cancelled through non-technical survey and 960,989 square metres cleared. As a result, Sudan identified and destroyed 60 anti-personnel mines (APM).



Table 1: Areas released, & devices destroyed by year, 1 April 2019 – 31 December 2021

Year	Number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines (square metres)			Cleared area (square metres)	Total area released personnel mines (square metres)	Number of anti-released personnel mines destroyed
	Cancelled area (square metres)	Reduced area (square metres)	Number of areas			
2019	5	6,127,357	0	577,035	6,704,392	1
2020	9	0	0	353,799	353,799	42
2021	5	838,298	0	30,155	868,453	17
Total	19	6,965,655	0	960,989	7,926,644	60

7. Through survey and clearance operations including spot explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) tasks, APM and anti-tank/anti-vehicle mines (AT/AVM) clearance throughout South Kordofan, Blue Nile and 5 Darfur states Sudan addressed 441 SHAs covering 5,595,483 and 665 CHAs covering 4,199,673 square metres.

8. As security has improved, Sudan has also been able to conduct further survey in Blue Nile and South Kordofan. For the period 01 April 2019 to 31 December 2021 survey operations resulted in the registration of 27 AP mined areas measuring 3,117,930 square metres.

Table 2: Level of anti-personnel mine contamination registered by state, 2021

State	Number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines	Amount of area known to contain anti-personnel mines (square metres)	Number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines		Total amount of area suspected to or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines		Total amount of area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines (square metres)
			Number of areas	Amount of area	Total number	Total amount of area	
Blue Nile	5	950,274	8	117,962	13	1,068,236	
South Kordofan	56	2,362,947	30	9,822,666	86	12,185,613	
West Kordofan	0	0	3	21,991	3	21,991	
Total	61	3,313,221	41	9,962,619	102	13,275,840	

9. The Sudan government has continued to fund mine action activities during the extension request period, including the clearance of mines and ERW besides the wages of the workers. The annual government funds for 2019- 2021 were 500,000 USD ¹.

¹ The amount of Government contribution to mine action in the local currency did not change; it is the same amount as before 2019, equaling 2,000,000 USD, as the value of local currency went down; its value in USD significantly decreased from 2,000,000 USD to 500,000 USD.

Table 3: Annual funding obtained during the current extension period (USD)

<i>Funding Resources</i>	2019	2020	2021	2022
GoS	2,000,000	2,000,000	500,000	500,000
UNMAS	4,978,160	5,230,145	7,529,000	2,902,000
Grand Total	6,978,160	7,230,145	8,029,000	3,402,000

10. There are number of practical obstacles that have impeded Sudan from meeting its Article 5 obligations during the current extension period:

- (a) Inadequate funding
- (b) Armed conflicts (intertribal)
- (c) No-Peace-No-War status
- (d) New levels of contamination
- (e) Challenges in information gathering
- (f) Lack and insufficient demining equipment
- (g) Deep buried mines/ERW and metallic contents of the soil
- (h) Climatic factors and atmospheric conditions including 3 to 4 months of rainy season.

11. Presence of explosive ordnance including APM, AT/AVM and ERW continue to cause deaths and injuries, especially to the civilian people including men, women and children living in and in the vicinity of the affected communities. In addition, explosive ordnance (EO) deprives people of land that could be put to productive use. Most of the Sudanese people living in the EO affected states of South Kordofan, Blue Nile, West Kordofan and five Darfur states are mainly relying on agriculture and livestock as their main income generating means. EO contamination maintained a sense of insecurity, delayed peace processes, and impeded development activities for years, also caused extreme socio-economic and environmental hardships to the people of Sudan.

12. Sudan's Article 5 challenge consists of a total of 102 hazardous areas measuring 13,275,840 square metres, including 61 CHAs measuring 3,313,221 square metres and 41 SHAs measuring 9,962,619 square metres.

13. Parts of the Blue Nile and South Kordofan states are still not accessible, however, compared to the period of previous extension request, more areas have been accessible including;

- Blue Nile state: Ulu, Baw localities, major parts of the Giessen locality and almost more than half of the Kurmuk locality.
- South Kordofan state: areas close to the frontline in Kadugli, Dilling, Rashad, Dallami, Habila, Reef Al Sharqi, Abu Kershulla, and Talodi localities have been accessible.

14. The areas under the control of non-state actors that are still not a signatory to the Juba Peace Agreement in parts of the Blue Nile and South Kordofan states are not currently accessible. Nonetheless, plans have been prepared to tackle the problem of mines there once conditions permit.

Table 4: Remaining level of contamination: Anti-Personnel Mines as of 31 Dec 2021²

State	Number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines	Amount of area known to contain anti-personnel mines (square metres)	Number of areas		Total amount of area		Total number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines (square metres)
			contain anti-personnel mines	contain anti-personnel mines	suspected to contain anti-personnel mines	or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines	
Blue Nile	5	950,274	8	117,962	13	1,068,236	
South Kordofan	56	2,362,947	30	9,822,666	86	12,185,613	
West Kordofan	0	0	3	21,991	3	21,991	
Total	61	3,313,221	41	9,962,619	102	13,275,840	

15. Sudan is requesting a four-year extension; 1 April 2023-1 April 2027.

16. The amount of time requested takes into consideration the need for survey in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, Darfur region and Abyei as the security situation in those places improves. In this regard, Sudan has developed a detailed work plan.

17. However, the implementation of survey may impact Sudan's baseline. Accordingly, Sudan will continue to keep the States Parties informed annually, through its Article 7 reports and statements at informal and formal meetings of the Convention, regarding; a) changes in security and changes in access to mined areas, b) Progress in survey implementation, including survey outputs and the impact of survey on Sudan's remaining challenge and, c) updated annual milestones, including priorities.

18. Sudan has developed a two-phase work plan to address its remaining Article 5 challenge. The work plan has been developed based on Landmine Impact Surveys (LIS) undertaken during 2002-2009 and continual survey efforts made in accessible areas conducted between 2018-2021. It is expected that access to remaining areas will result in the cancellation of LIS areas as well as new hazardous areas being identified.

- Phase 1 covers all accessible hazardous areas under the Government's jurisdiction or control (2023-2025) including new areas identified through the survey activities.
- Phase 2 covers the remaining contamination in the database that currently cannot be addressed but is aimed to be cleared during (2025-2027).

Table 5: All Hazard Land Release Milestones by Year, (2023-2027)

Year	Hazard			Area to be released		
	SHA	CHA	Total	Area Cancelled though non technical survey (NTS)	Area though technical survey (TS)/Cleared	Total Area to be released
2022-2023	56	59	115	3,248,412.3	3,970,281.7	7,218,694
2023-2024	61	44	105	3,288,465.5	4,019,235.6	7,307,701
2024-2025	32	13	45	3,407,927.9	4,165,245.2	7,573,173

² This table reflects the remaining anti-personnel contamination from the beginning of the programme up to 31 December 2021 included as part of submission of the third extension request. It is showing clearly the huge areas in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States.

Year	Hazard			Area Cancelled		Total Area to be released
	SHA	CHA	Total	though non technical survey (NTS)	Area though technical survey (TS)/Cleared	
2025-2026	10	47	57	3,565,708.7	4,358,088.4	7,923,797
2026-2027	10	19	29	1,301,053.5	1,590,176.5	2,891,230
Total	169	182	351	14,811,568	18,103,027	32,914,595

19. The table 5 shows all types of EO contamination including APM, ATM, and ERW considering their combined impact on the affected population including returnees, Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs) and communities. Despite the main focus on APM to be removed, AT/VM and ERW clearance are also crucial to be considered during the extension period due to the following reasons:

- i. Refugees and IDPs returning to the country and communities.
- ii. Returnees from Ethiopia and South Sudan are in need livelihood and humanitarian assistance which are blocked due to the presence of EO.
- iii. Returnees are temporarily settled in other areas which created land ownership problems, they are eagerly looking for mine action support to remove EO from their own communities and lands to resume their lives and livelihood activities.
- iv. Access to APM contaminated areas in most of war-affected localities are blocked due to the roads/route contamination.
- v. Sudan has a rainy season of 3 to 5 months each year.

20. To respond to all high priority EO contaminated areas Sudan has developed this work plan where APM, AT/VM and ERW contaminated areas will be released throughout the duration of the Article 5 extension request.

21. Sudan mine action programme plans to conduct an in-depth assessment and survey to establish a baseline for Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) interventions.

22. The EORE assessment will include a wider consultation with relevant stakeholders including the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Sudan Red Crescent Society, mine action organisations, UNICEF and EO affected communities. The assessment will also include a review of the current EORE procedures, methodologies and Risk Education (RE) Information, Education and Communication materials, an analysis of casualty data over the years, the role of EORE in reduction of accidents and promotion of safe behaviour within the affected communities and schools that received RE. It will also include technical workshops on the assessment findings and the roadmap and recommendations for the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC), EORE organisations and relevant stakeholders.

23. The assessment will also include a thorough analysis of the conflict dynamics in the context of Sudan and include recommendations and methodologies for conflict-sensitive EORE interventions to be undertaken. In addition, it will include an analysis and recommendations to integrate EORE in humanitarian, protection, health and education sectors. The assessment will be conducted through a consultancy by EORE experts.

24. The EORE needs assessment and identification of at-risk group through the community mapping and involvement of women, men, children will be undertaken in each targeted community before the EORE intervention will start. EORE efforts will be undertaken in a well-organised and systematic way based on a well-developed plan considering the EO impact on the at-risk group in the affected and neighbouring communities, humanitarian aid workers and the general public living in the affected states of Sudan. Sudan mine action programme has developed national standards for planning and prioritization of EORE. The work plan is developed in line with Oslo Action Plan, Actions #28-#32 and Action #24. Please refer to the extension request for the detailed budget and capacity for EORE.

25. From 2019 through 2021, three national entities, JASMAR, Global Aid Hand (GAH) and National Units for Mine Action and Development (NUMAD) delivered quality results in terms of releasing EO contaminated areas, provision of EORE and Victim Assistance (VA). To ensure quality outputs, NMAC conducted regular Quality Assurance (QA) monitoring visits to the field, supported and monitored by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) Sudan technical advisors.

26. Currently, there are three international contractors, Safelane Global and newly accredited Danish Refugee Council/Danish Demining Group (DDG). Association for Aid and Relief (AAR) Japan had been accredited for implementing EORE and VA, however, it was not operational during 2021 due to political changes in country.

27. In addition to this, Sudan welcomes any interested International Mine Action Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to deploy its assets to Sudan and assist Sudan in meeting its Article 5 obligations.

28. The distribution of assets is based on the required demining capacities to be fully operating and funded during the extension period. The following assets will be deployed:

- Two mechanical teams (MECH) to support Multi-task teams (MTTs) on road/route clearance).
- Six Multitask Teams (MTT, 8 deminers each capable of roads/routes operations, supported by demining machines and mine detection dogs as required).
- 12 Quick Response Teams (QRT, 4 deminers each) with the possibility of joining two QRTs to make additional MTT when needed.
- 15 EORE Teams (female/male team members).

Table 6: Annual funding required to support mine action activities, (USD)

<i>Activity</i>							
<i>Year</i>	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	<i>Total</i>
Land Release	6,975,000	6,975,000	6,975,000	6,975,000	3,555,000	1,150,000	32,605,000
EO Risk Education	2,075,000	2,125,000	2,075,000	2,075,000	140,000	475,000	8,965,000
Victim Assistance	500,380	565,460	534,960	525,990	500,000	500,000	3,126,790
Capacity Building	80,000	80,000	50,000	50,000	20,000	0	280,000
Equipment	680,000	100,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	0	930,000
Coordination, Quality Management (QM), Advocacy	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	2,600,000	1,400,000	16,000,000
Total	13,312,402	12,845,460	12,684,960	12,675,990	6,865,000	3,525,000	61,906,790

29. The funds required will mainly be covering land release, survey/EOD, EORE, VA, advocacy efforts, quality management of mine action, national capacity building, equipment and coordination of mine action sector in Sudan.

30. Sudan's plan for the clearance of the contaminated areas is based on the assumption that the security situation in all 8 states including Blue Nile, South Kordofan, West Kordofan and five Darfur states will be improved, and more areas will be accessible for the demining teams to reach out to the EO affected communities and hazardous areas. Sudan plans to survey all newly accessible areas, and once the survey has been completed and the scope of the explosive ordnance problem becomes known, Sudan will inform States Parties on the

updated scope of the problem and possible changes to the multi-year operational plan. The programme assumes that some of the previously recorded suspected hazardous areas will be cancelled, and some more areas will be identified and surveyed especially in those areas which have not been surveyed after the armed conflict of 2011-2016. Survey of additional areas and cancellation of already recorded areas will affect the work plan, in this regard, Sudan will provide the updated work plan for the remaining period of the extension request.

31. Funding again is a major concern, and the multi-year work plan is based on the assumption of adequate funding to the programme.

32. The programme assumes that with the improved access to its remaining contaminated areas, understanding of the scope of the problem, availability of required resources Sudan will possess a clear and accurate measure of its capacities and needs. In this way, international NGOs and commercial companies are encouraged to engage with Sudan to see how they can have a positive contribution to the overall efforts aiming to clear the landmine contaminated areas.

33. Though the predominant optimistic atmosphere mainly as a result of sanctions being lifted and Sudan welcoming the entry of international organisations, if the similar conditions delineated in the precedent paragraphs persist during the period of the extension request, sadly Sudan should prepare for a similar result.

34. During the current extension period, a number of factors affected the completion of planned demining activities and these likely are expected to have the same influences on the operations progress in the forthcoming extension period. The risks that are likely to be encountered are as follows:

- (a) The political and economic situation.
 - (b) Security.
 - (c) Funding, international financial support and support from the Government of Sudan.
 - (d) Weather.
 - (e) Terrain.
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