



IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 IN GUINEA-BISSAU STATUS AND CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTATION

THREE MAIN PHASES IN ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION

The landmine problem in Guinea-Bissau dated back to the 1963 to 1974 liberation war. Additional landmines and explosive remnants of war were also laid during the 1998-1999 Civil War and the 2006 Casamance conflict.

Initial completion in 2012

- Guinea-Bissau signed the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in 2001. The national mine action centre known as 'CAAMI' was created the same year.
- Survey and demining operations, along with Explosive Ordnance Risk Education and Victim Assistance activities, were conducted from 2001 until 2012.
- In 2012, Guinea-Bissau declared having fulfilled its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention. Most activities ceased following Guinea-Bissau's declaration of completion.

New deadline in December 2022

- In June 2021, Guinea-Bissau reported to the Intersessional Meetings the discovery of previously unknown mined areas.
- Guinea-Bissau also reported on new casualties caused anti-personnel mines and other explosive ordnance.
- Guinea-Bissau was granted an extension request with a new deadline for 31 December 2022, with the objectives to mobilise resources and carry out survey activities necessary to acquire a clearer understanding of the extent of the contamination and to develop an evidence-based action plan based on this information.

Request for an extension of 2 years until 31 December 2024

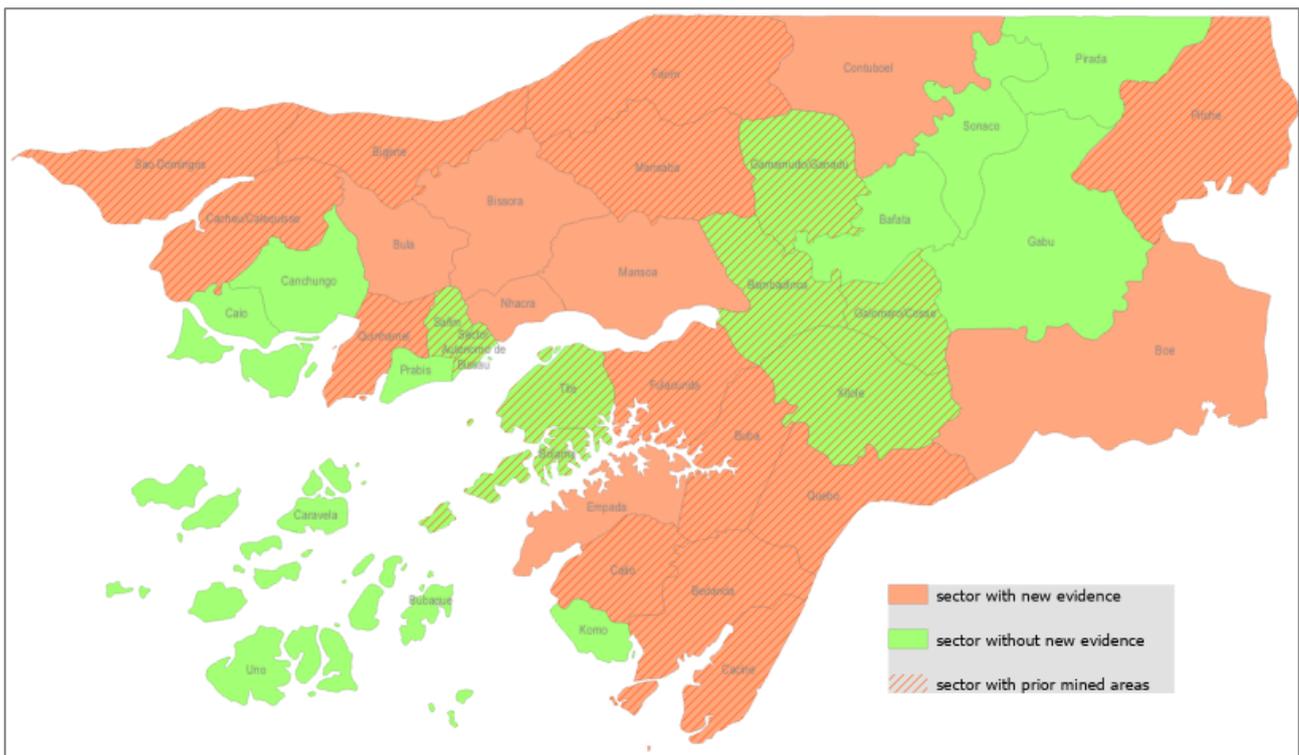
- Guinea-Bissau has made limited progresses towards these objectives due primarily to the lack of financial resources. But a dialogue has been engaged with national and international stakeholders to acquire a clearer understanding of the challenges faced, to propose a sustainable plan and to mobilise efficiently the resources needed to implement the plan. A summary of key findings is presented hereafter.
- Based on this reflection, Guinea-Bissau submitted in March 2022 a new request for extension of the Article 5 deadline until December 2024.



REMAINING CONTAMINATION

Guinea-Bissau has registered multiple evidence of remaining contamination by mines and explosive remnants of war since the declaration of completion of its Article 5 obligations in 2012:

- 13 accidents involving 73 victims have been recorded, despite the absence of formal reporting mechanisms.
- In 2014, the national non-governmental organization HUMAID confirmed through field visits the presence of 9 confirmed hazardous areas, with an estimated area of 1'093'840 square meters. An additional 43 areas are also suspected of contamination, although they have not been visited to date. In addition, 5 battle areas and 3 spot tasks remain to be cleared.
- It is important to highlight that the survey efforts to identify the above-mentioned contamination did not apply survey techniques as recognised by the most up to date International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). As such these areas will be subject to a resurvey once the capacity is in place.
- In addition, the mapping of old and new evidence shows that the contamination is spread over the territory.



Map of Guinea-Bissau illustrating administrative sectors with old evidence of contamination (at least one demined areas between 2001 and 2012) and new evidence of contamination (at least one hazardous areas and/or one accident since 2012)



PLAN TO ADDRESS THE REMAINING CONTAMINATION

- **For the above-mentioned reasons, Guinea-Bissau has concluded that the priority must be given in the upcoming year 2023 to the conduction of a national survey using an evidence-based land release processes compliant with IMAS.** This survey will allow 1° to more accurately understand the nature and extent of the challenge posed by mines as well as for the abandoned explosive ordnances (AXO) and unexploded ordnances (UXO) which also contaminate extensively the country; and 2° to develop evidence-based work plans and resources mobilisation plans necessary for Guinea-Bissau to pursue the objective of being a landmine free country by 2025.
- **Guinea-Bissau also considers as necessary the mobilisation of a marking and clearance capacity and of EORE activities during the national survey to reduce, respectively, the threat posed by explosive ordnance and the vulnerability of the population towards this threat.**



CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS THE REMAINING CONTAMINATION

- Guinea-Bissau can rely on two active national structures, i.e., the national mine action coordination centre CAAMI and the national operator HUMAID, to carry out most of these tasks. However, their respective resources are, ten years after the need of previous activities, quite limited, be it in terms of personnel, material, technical or norms.
- Guinea-Bissau considers that some prerequisites are crucial during the mobilisation phase, in 2022, to create an enabling environment for a land release process qualitative, efficient, evidence-based and well documented. It includes: the development of national standards in line with IMAS and of an information management system to frame and improve the safety, quality and efficiency of the mine action activities; the acquisition of equipment modern and performant; the capacity building of previously trained and new staff. Some support has already been initiated by the Mines Advisory Group (MAG).
- The overall budget for the mobilisation phase in 2022 and the implementation phase in 2023-2024 is estimated at **5,688,000 USD**. So far, much remains unfunded.



IN SUMMARY

Guinea-Bissau has requested a 24-month extension of its Article 5, with a new deadline on 31 December 2024. Guinea-Bissau is concerned by the fact that partial or delayed funding in support to the 2022 mobilisation phase would affect and delay the conduction of the whole action plan. **To this regard, Guinea Bissau urgently needs to mobilise international support to the plan proposed in the extension request, whilst at the same time mobilising more national resources.**

2022 MOBILISATION	2023-2024 IMPLEMENTATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of an information management system • Development of national standards in line with IMAS • Acquisition of equipment • Capacity building of personnel • Resuming of EORE activities • Fundraising <p style="text-align: center;">1,276,000 USD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of non-technical survey at national level • Carrying out of EORE activities • Carrying out of emergency clearance • Initiation of technical survey and clearance • Strategy to address residual risk • Fundraising <p style="text-align: center;">4,412,000 USD</p>

Please refer to the extension request submitted in 2022 for further details.