



# Ghana National Commission on Small Arms & Light Weapons

Presentation by

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@

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# Introduction

- Although Ghana is not widely recognized as a country heavily impacted by landmines, it has faced specific difficulties related to Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) due to previous conflicts and military training exercises.
- Despite the limited prevalence of landmines in Ghana, there have been isolated incidents in which unexploded ordnance has led to accidents and endangered local communities.
- Ghana demonstrates a strong commitment to foster peaceful societies, uphold the rule of law, and promote strong, accountable institutions that contribute to sustainable development and the well-being of its citizens in line with goal 16 of the SDGs.

# Implementation of the Convention - Article 5



## *Brief background on Ghana's situation – ERWs*

- For several years, Ghana has grappled with a significant security concern stemming from its stockpile of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW), including all manner of obsolete and surplus ammunition and bombs dating back to World War II. This stockpile has persistently presented a substantial threat to the security of the country.
- In addition to the accumulation of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) from World War II, Ghana has also acquired a stockpile of ERW resulting from its participation in peacekeeping operations. This addition further compounds the existing security concerns faced by the country.
- Furthermore, there are significant quantities of unserviceable explosives stored at various garrisons across the country, exacerbating the existing concerns surrounding explosive materials and posing additional security risks for Ghana.



# International Cooperation & Assistance

## ***Actions 42 to 47 of OAP:***

- Ghana, through the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons, has been fortunate to receive assistance from GIZ, MAG, and the ECOWAS Commission in the destruction of a significant portion of the accumulated Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). This includes obsolete and surplus ammunition, munitions, and bombs that belonged to the Ghana Armed Forces and had posed a longstanding threat to society.
- This was done in line with the Commission's mandate to coordinate national efforts and strategies and pursuant to the Commission's objective to reduce the dangers and impact of the proliferation and misuse of arms and their ammunition in the country.

# Capacity Building



S/N	OUTPUT / ACTIVITY	PREPARATORY ACTIVITY	
12.	<p><b>Support for Implementing Partners / Security Agencies</b></p>	<p>Training of 30 Security Personnel (<b>23 from GAF, 7 from Police</b>) on Ammunition Disposal with the support of GIZ, ECOWAS and the Mines Advisory Group (MAG)</p> <p>This was a 2-week training to build the capacity of personnel for the destruction.</p>	

# Gender Mainstreaming

## *Actions 3 & 47 of OAP:*

• Recognizing the significance of gender equality, the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons in Ghana integrates a gender perspective to effectively address challenges related to anti-personnel mines and EWR. This ensures that the needs, experiences, and contributions of both men and women are acknowledged and addressed, fostering a more inclusive, just, and peaceful society.



# ....Gender Mainstreaming



*Training on preparing obsolete bombs and ammunition for destruction:*





# Ammunition Disposal Training



# DESTRUCTION EXERCISE OF ERW

S/N	OUTPUT / ACTIVITY	MAIN ACTIVITY
12.	<b>Support for Implementing Partners</b>	<p>Within a span of three weeks, a total of 30 tonnes of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW), including obsolete and surplus ammunition and bombs from the armories of the Ghana Armed Forces, were safely destroyed at a secure location situated far away from any human settlements.</p>

# PREPARING OBSOLETE BOMBS AND AMMUNITION FOR DESTRUCTION



# .....PREPARING OBSOLETE BOMBS AND AMMUNITION FOR DESTRUCTION



# BEFORE THE DESTRUCTION



# .....BEFORE THE DESTRUCTION





# AFTER THE DESTRUCTION

*Remnants of destroyed EWR - obsolete/surplus  
ammunition and bombs*



# National Legislation & Regulation



## *The Minerals and Mining (Explosives) Regulations, 2012 (LI 2177) :*

- The Minerals and Mining (Explosives) Regulations, 2012 (LI 2177) in Ghana primarily govern the use, handling, storage, transportation, and disposal of explosives within the mining industry. While these regulations primarily focus on mining-related explosives, they also have relevance in the context of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) due to their broader scope regarding explosive materials.
- LI 2177 establishes strict requirements and procedures to ensure the safe and responsible use of explosives in the mining sector. Some key provisions of the regulations include: ***Licensing and permits; Safety and security measures; Competency and training; and Environmental protection.***
- While the primary focus of LI 2177 is on explosives used in mining operations, its provisions and regulations regarding safe handling, storage, transportation, and disposal of explosives can indirectly contribute to minimizing the risk and impact of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) within the broader context of public safety and security in Ghana.



# Agricultural Product - IEDs

## ***Fertilizer :***

- During a regional security meeting at the ECOWAS level, it came to light that non-state actors have been smuggling substantial amounts of fertilizers into the region under the false pretense of agricultural use. However, it was revealed that these fertilizers are ultimately intended for the production of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).
- This discovery has raised significant concerns among regional stakeholders regarding the potential misuse of fertilizers for illicit activities that pose a direct threat to security. It underscores the urgent need for coordinated efforts and enhanced security measures to combat the diversion of fertilizers for such malicious purposes.
- To address this issue effectively, it is imperative for Member States to collaborate closely in implementing stringent border controls, strengthening regulatory frameworks governing the import and distribution of fertilizers, and intensifying intelligence sharing.



# Conclusion

- The impact resulting from the destruction of EWR including ammunition and munitions is significant and far-reaching.
- While a portion of the Explosive Remnants of War (ERW), comprising obsolete and surplus ammunition and bombs, has been effectively destroyed, a substantial quantity remains in stock, presenting an ongoing and serious security threat to the country.
- Ghana recognizes the need for continued efforts and acknowledges that there is still much work to be done. Therefore, the country appeals for further support to aid in the destruction of the remaining stockpiles of ammunition and munitions.
- We express our gratitude for the invaluable support provided by the ECOWAS Commission, GIZ, GFFO, MAG, and all other development partners. Their assistance has been instrumental in our efforts, and we deeply appreciate their collaboration and commitment to achieving our shared goals.



# Q & A



“WHEN SOMEONE GIVES YOU FEED  
BACK, SAY THANK YOU”  
(DAMBISA MOYO)