



Norwegian People's Aid
Zimbabwe



Inspirational Speech by Memory Mutepfa for the Fifth Review Conference.

Good morning, everyone—Your Excellency the President of the Convention, the President of Cambodia, the NPA Secretary General, distinguished guests, and all delegates.

My name is Memory Mutepfa, and I stand before you today not only as a Senior Community Liaison Officer, a former deminer, and a proud mother, but also as a voice for the countless individuals and families affected by the hidden scars of landmines. At 33, I embody the determination, courage, and passion that drive our collective mission toward a mine-free world.

I want to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to Norwegian People's Aid for not only employing me but also for empowering me to serve my community through demining. I also extend my thanks to the Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention for recognizing my voice during the Zimbabwe National Dialogue in 2021. It is a profound honor to stand on this esteemed platform today. Who could have imagined that a deminer would be invited to such a prestigious summit, sharing this space with esteemed delegates and leaders? This opportunity underscores the transformative power of our work and the importance of elevating voices from the ground level in the fight for a mine-free world giving a woman a chance to show case herself.

Who could have imagined that a deminer could build her own house, advance her education to degree level and to own a car, My journey began in a mine-affected community, where I witnessed children navigating minefields, unaware of the dangers beneath their feet. The tragic loss of my cousin to a hand grenade transformed our lives, filling us with fear and restricting our freedom.

Hope arrived when NPA began working in our community in 2013. As one of Zimbabwe's first female deminers, I started my career at the age of 20, breaking barriers in a patriarchal society. My journey from deminer to the first female team leader with IMAS EOD Level 2 in Zimbabwe has been transformative, allowing me to witness the profound impact of our work. Leading all-female and mixed-gender teams taught me the importance of gender mainstreaming in mine action. As I progressed to the role of Community Liaison Officer and then Senior Community Liaison Officer, I gained a deeper understanding of how landmines affect different gender groups and the necessity of prioritizing their needs. This ignited a fire within me to reclaim not only land but also the dignity, peace, and hope of our people.

My commitment to mine action is unwavering. I recently postponed my final degree program exams in development studies to focus on our mission. This decision reflects my dedication to this cause and the urgent need for a mine-free world. My story embodies the resilience of women in this field, serving as a beacon of hope for future generations.



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Employing women in mine action does more than provide jobs; it fosters peace and empowerment in families, especially in marginalized communities where women face heightened challenges.

Mine action transcends mere land clearance; it is about restoring lives. Women and girls disproportionately bear the burden of suffering, often navigating dangerous terrains in search of resources. The importance of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) cannot be overstated. EORE equips communities with vital knowledge, ensuring their safety and enabling them to participate actively in the healing of their land. In Zimbabwe, our post-clearance activities reveal that over 75% of households experience improved livelihoods, underscoring the direct link between mine action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As we gather today, I urge everyone in the mine action community to advocate for enhanced collaboration between clearance and EORE on a global level. Together, we can create a holistic approach that addresses the urgent needs of affected communities while paving the way for economic growth and resilience.

However, we face significant challenges. Funding shortfalls threaten to delay vital operations and hinder our progress toward a mine-free world. We must not allow these obstacles to impede our mission. Increased investment in mine action is essential—not just for the safety of affected communities but for the future of sustainable development.

I extend my deepest gratitude to landmine survivors. It is not easy to live with the aftermath of landmines, especially in countries lacking specific funding for victim assistance. We must commit to funding more EORE sessions to prevent accidents and reduce the burden of living with disabilities.

I would like to thank the Kingdom of Cambodia for hosting this event, the Implementation Support Unit, the sponsors of this summit, the international donor community, the State Parties of the Ottawa Convention, International Mine Action Organizations, National Mine Action Centres, and every courageous deminer dedicated to this cause. Your contributions are not mere financial support; they are lifelines—investments in the futures of countless individuals yearning for safety and hope.

As we stand united in our commitment to a mine-free world, let us carry forward the torch of determination and compassion. Together, we can create a safer, brighter future for all.

As we gather here today, let us reaffirm our unwavering commitment to a mine-free world—a world where safety and development flourish hand in hand.

Together, let us stand in solidarity and work tirelessly towards a safer, brighter **MINE FREE WORLD FOR ALL!!**

Thank you!



Memory Mutepfa Inspirational Speech

Fifth Review Conference ,Siem Reap, Cambodia, 2024



Zimbabwe

Mine Action and Disarmament



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NPA DMAD Zimbabwe, Memory Mutepfa, Senior Community Liaison Officer

MY JOURNEY WITH THE NORWEGIAN PEOPLE'S AID IN ZIMBABWE SINCE 2013



MEMORY MUTEPFA NPA SENIOR COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER



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NPA DMAD Zimbabwe, Memory Mutepfa, Senior Community Liaison Officer

MY ACHIEVEMENTS & EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.



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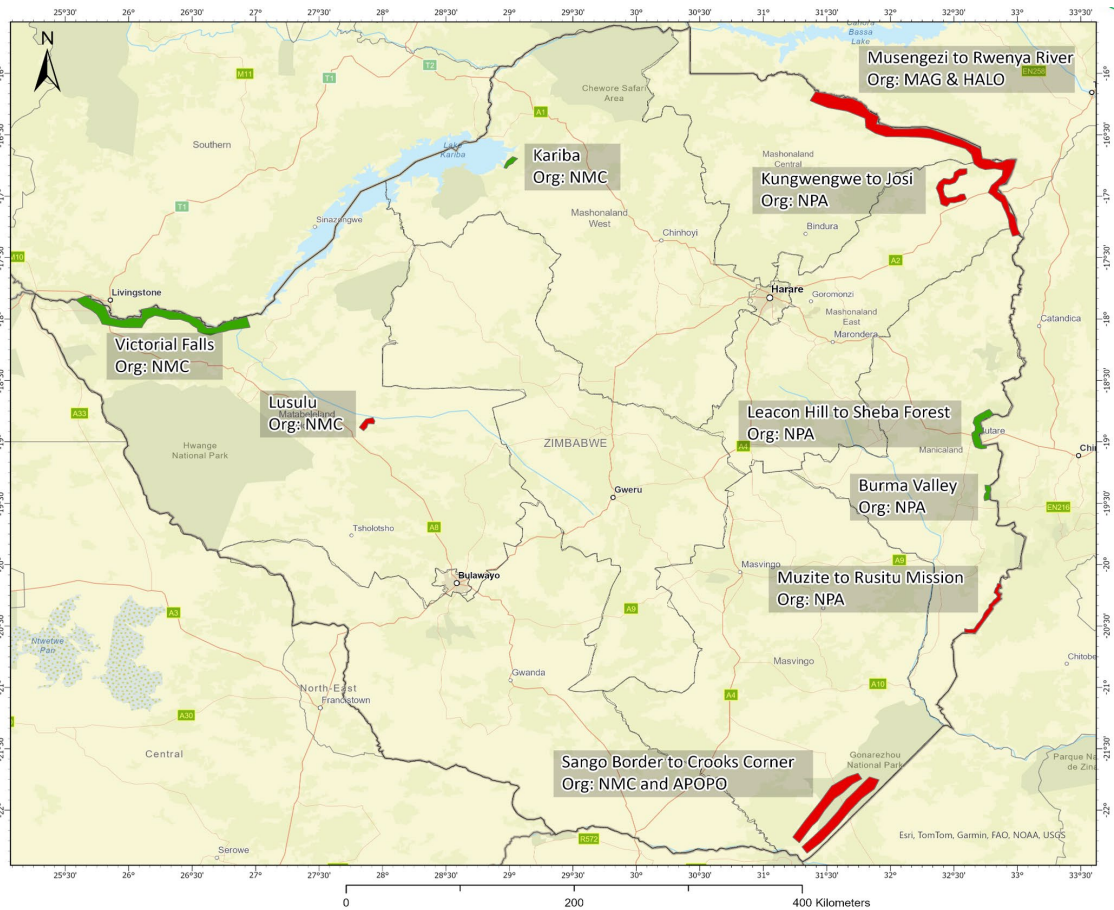
THE PROGRESS IN MINE CLEARANCE IN ZIMBABWE.



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GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION, HISTORY OF CONFLICT, EO IMPACTS AND MINE ACTION IN ZIMBABWE.



MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH IN MINE ACTION.



Gender Needs Assessment with Women



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A MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH IN MINE ACTION.



Focus Group Discussion on EORE: Engaging insights were gathered from a balanced group of 6 female and 6 male participants representing the communities of Rupiya and Mutinha within MF2 Sector 05. This discussion aimed to explore diverse perspectives and foster inclusive dialogue on landmine contamination affecting the community.



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NPA LINKING EORE & MINE CLEARANCE & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENTAL GOALS.



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POST CLEARANCE RESULTS – SDG 1 & 2: NO POVERTY & ZERO HUNGER.



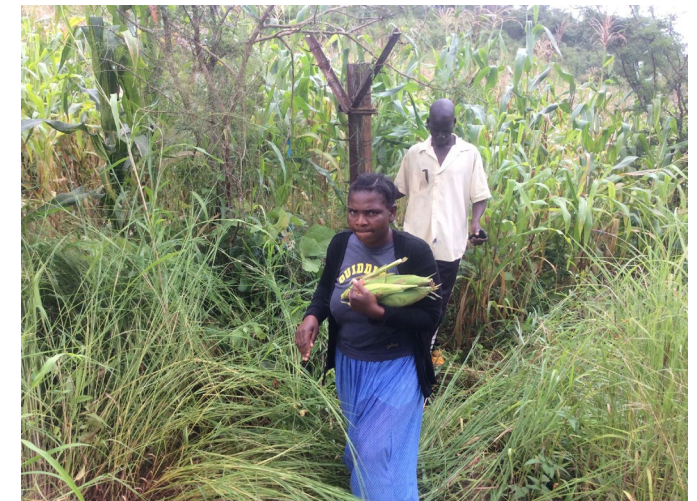
- Reduction of Absolute Poverty and Economic Opportunities:
- Household Income Improvement and Agricultural Land Value Increase.
- Enhanced Resilience and Livestock Ownership Growth
- Machinery Investment and Economic Growth
- Positive Impact on Hunger and Sustainable Futures



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The Linkage Between EORE, Clearance & Post Clearance



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