

**Regional Conference on Addressing the  
Humanitarian Impact of Improvised Anti  
Personnel Mines Within the Framework of the  
Convention 13-15 February 2024 – Accra, Ghana**

**Updates on Status of The Gambia Implementation of Anti-  
Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

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# **Gambia's position and commitment to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

- The republic of The Gambia is proud to be a state party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.
- The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the foundation of which is based on transparency and mutual accountability, the Republic of The Gambia believes that these founding and guiding principles continue to remain dynamic to full and complete implementation of the convention.
- In respect of this, the Republic of the Gambia wishes to update State parties in line with Article 7 of the Convention

## **Ratification of the convention**

- The Gambia ratified the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention/treaty in 2003.
- However, it did not conduct any compliance activity until 2017 following the advent of the new dispensation which happens to be the third republic.
- Further, the fact that The Gambia ratified the treaty, it does not embark on any reduction activity

# Previous activity report

- The previous report of the figures concerning the number of Anti-Personnel mines possessed by the Gambia where submitted.
- In 2017, 2018 and 2019 The Gambia destroyed series of AP Mines in compliance to the treaty.
- The Following mines where destroyed:
  - a. VS – 50, AP Mines - 100
  - b. T72 – B, AP Mines – 67

Stakeholders that took part in the destruction of these mines includes, all the security service lead by The Gambia Armed, the civil society and the communities with the help of Mine Advisory Group with the support from the EU

## **Previous activity report cont. ....**

- The Gambia Armed Forces for the purpose of implementing the AP Mines Ban Convention conducted mines campaign awareness for a period of two (2) weeks in the southern Gambia border belt.
- The team covered communities of 29 villages ,
- The sensitization was due to mine incidents registered around the Casamance region bordering the Foni region of The Gambia

## Compliance to Article 9

- Concerning Article 9 of the Convention, The Gambia at current has no exclusive legislation on the AP Mines,
- however, the AP Mines issues are captured under the Arms and Ammunition laws.
- This as relate to the convention is deemed sufficient for its implementation

# Humanitarian impact faced by The Gambia as regards the improvised anti-personnel mines

- The Gambia has faced Humanitarian impact by the improvised anti-personnel mines in the past years.
- The Gambia which is bordered with Senegal on all its three side except the Atlantic Ocean has its region of Foni belt bordered with Southern Casamance region where the MFDC rebel are stationed
- This area is believed to be infested with anti-personnel mines which post a tremendous threat to The Gambia.
- It has being difficult for the communities around that belt to identified the border lines of the two countries that shared the same forest parks where these anti-personnel mines were planted since most parts of the borders between the two countries are porose.



## **Humanitarian impact faced by The Gambia Cont...**

- It is worth informing the State Parties that most of the community members along this belt use the land for farming and the forest parks for their livelihoods in the form of hunting, grazing, fetching firewood and collecting wild fruits as well as logging and drug trafficking.
- The presence of anti-personnel mines in these areas have adversely affected the lives of these community members as it deprived them from a livelihood that they found difficult to have an alternative for.
- Equally, the presence of anti-personnel mines along these belt (Foni – Casamance) put the Gambian communities in a state of fear since they could no-more do their normal routine activities around those areas for the fear of being accidentally trapped thus causing serious bodily harm or death

## Support Required

To embarked on this exercise among others, The Gambia required support from the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Unit or relevant donor agencies that could sponsor the sensitization and or searching, and diffusion exercise to enable the continuation of anti-personnel mines campaigned, searching, and diffusion exercise along the Foni region of The Gambia.

## **Humanitarian impact faced by The Gambia Cont...**

- Due to the mine incidents that occurred in the Foni – Casamance belt triggered anti-personnel mines campaign for a period of two weeks as mentioned above.
- However, this is not enough as all the villages in the Foni area particularly those that were not reached needs to be sensitized about the presence of mines along these belts to prevent future occurrences of mine fatality