

The Republic of South Sudan

Presentation to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional Meetings

Request for the Second Extension of the Article 5 for South Sudan

Hon. Jurkuch Barach Jurkuch, Chairperson NMAA South Sudan

17-20 June 2025

International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland



PROGRESS

Since the approval of the Article 5 extension request in July 2021, South Sudan has removed the following contamination from its database:

Hazard Type	No. of Tasks	Area in SQM
AP Minefields	15	1,561,584
AT minefields	16	995,849
Mined road	46	2,355,989
Cluster strikes	51	13,368,454
Battlefields	95	10,267,424
Cancellations	46	3,595,408
Totals	223	29,788,719

**PROGRES
SO FAR**



Reasons for Not Completing Obligations during Previous Extension Period

- **Insecurity:** Many known areas contaminated by AP minefields are inaccessible because of insecurity
- **Known unknowns** - minefields have continued to be recorded each year since (including through accidents), although the rate of discovery has dropped.
- **Funding:** Mine action in South Sudan continue to face challenges.
 - Today, 75% of clearance work is funded by UN Mission in South Sudan
 - If the UN Mission closes, then 75% mine clearance capacity will be lost.
 - There are other pressing humanitarian needs in South Sudan: Health, hunger
- **Poor infrastructure:** Majority of the contaminated areas are located in areas with very poor roads. Significantly increases logistical costs of supporting clearance.
- **Climatic changes:** South Sudan has significantly been impacted by severe flooding since 2020 because climatic changes. A number of known minefields are currently submerged by static flooding.

CHALLENGES



Remaining Hazardous Areas in South Sudan as of 31 December 2024



**REMAINING
THREAT**



UNMAS

Situation Mapped by
Number of Clearance Tasks per Payam



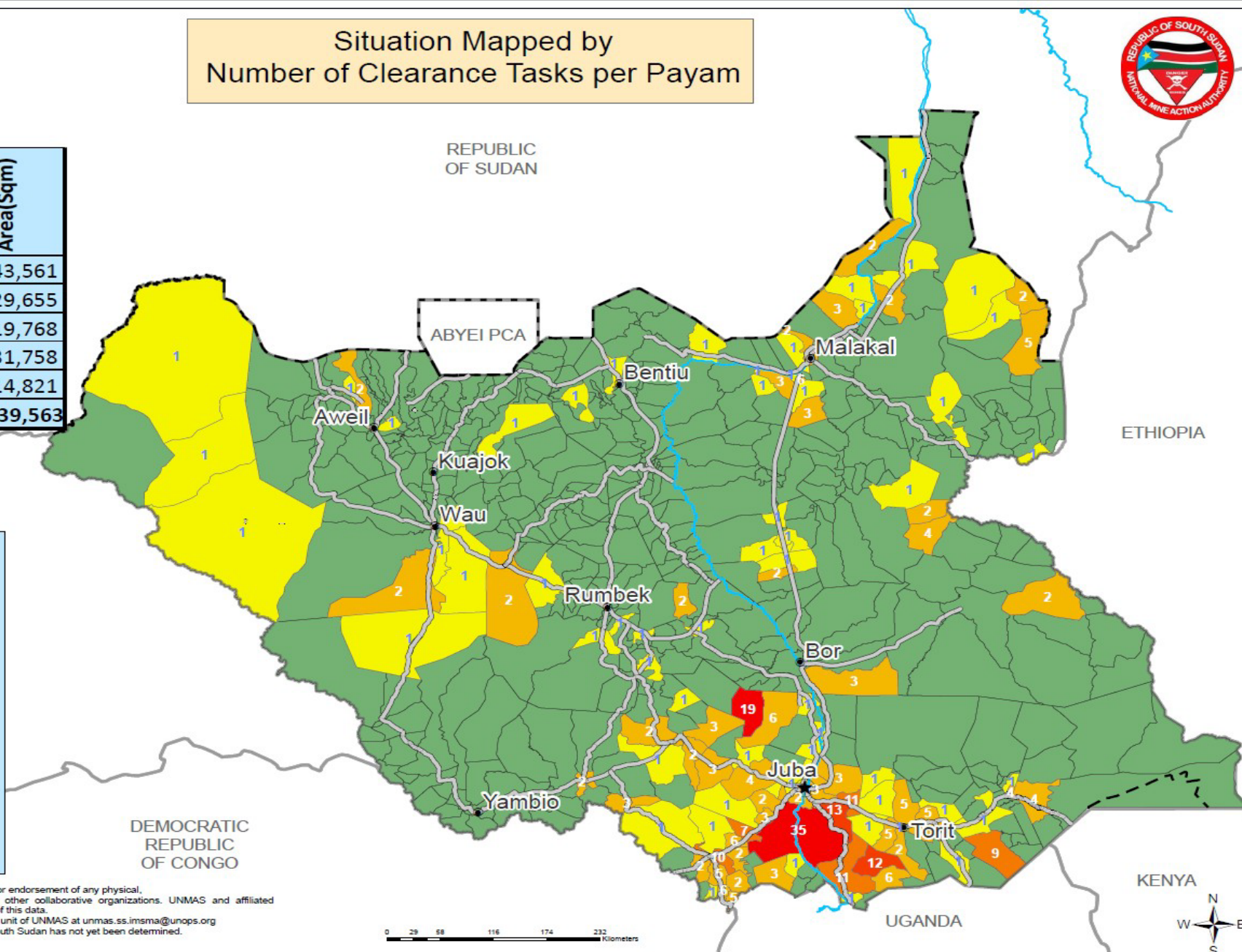
Open Hazard	# of Hazard	Area(Sqm)
AP Mines	114	4,943,561
AT Mines	51	2,329,655
Mined Road	26	3,919,768
Cluster Munitions	105	9,531,758
Battlefield	37	1,614,821
Total	333	22,339,563

LEGEND

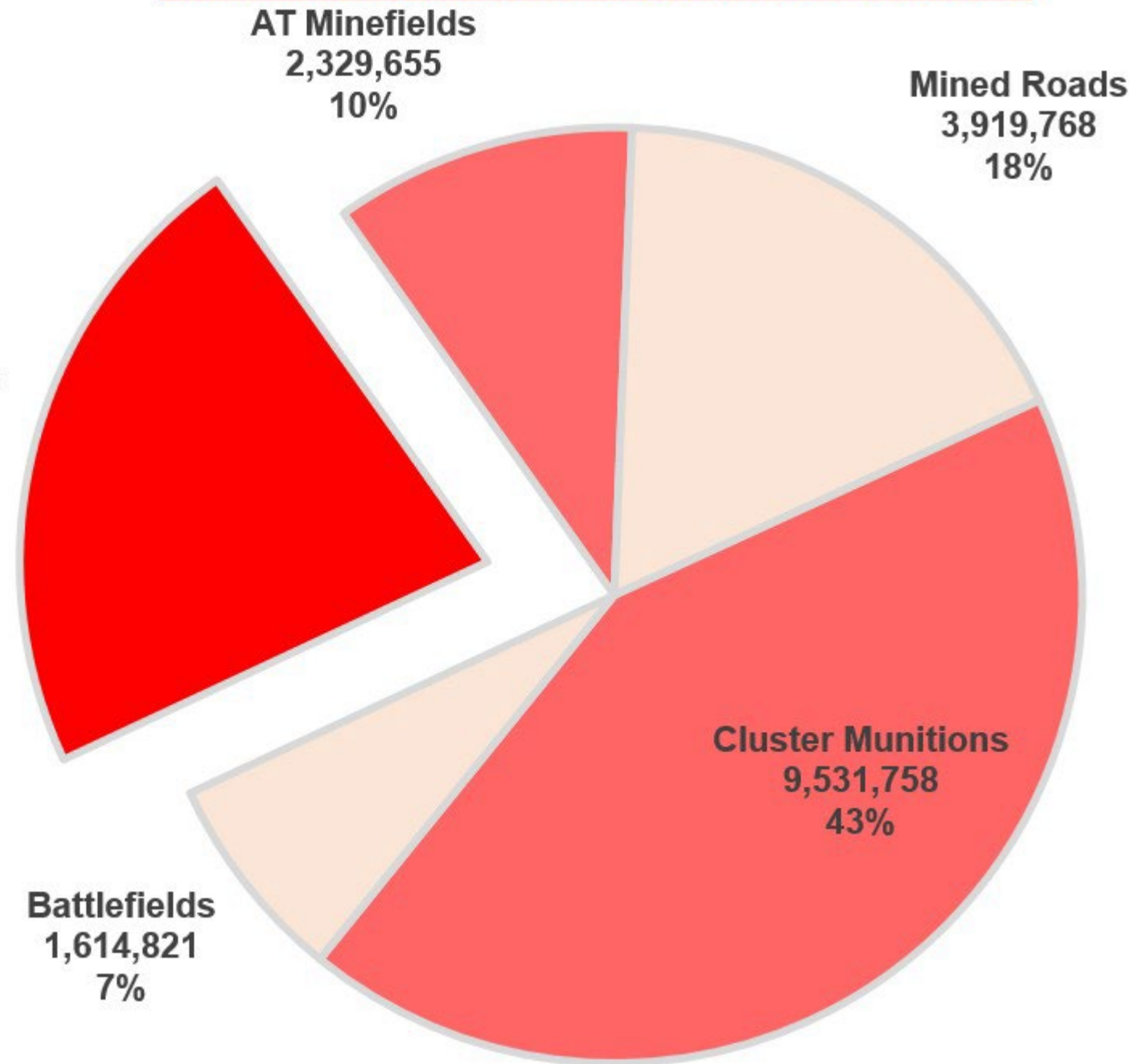
- ★ Country Capital
- State Capital
- River Nile
- Major Roads
- - - Undetermined Boundary
- ▭ International Boundaries South Sudan

# of Clearance Task	Payam	%
1	57	11.2
2 - 6	46	9.0
7 - 11	5	1.0
12 - 16	2	0.4
Above 16	2	0.4
No Known Hazards	413	78.7

The information shown on this map does not imply official recognition or endorsement of any physical, political boundaries or featured names by the United Nations or other collaborative organizations. UNMAS and affiliated organizations are not liable for damage of any kind related to the use of this data.
Users who notice errors or omissions are encouraged to inform the IM unit of UNMAS at unmas.ss.imsma@unops.org
Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.
Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.



Remaining Hazardous Area Type in Area Size (sqm)



REMAINING
THREAT
TYPE



Requested extension period

- South Sudan is requesting to extend the current deadline of June 2025 to June 2030.



**WAY
FORWARD**



Best Tool to Complete the Job

The remaining problem of anti-personnel minefields hazards is best tackled using **mechanical clearance assets**.

- On average a medium sized mechanical asset clears about **2000 sqm per day**.
- In comparison, on average a manual deminer clears **20 sqm per day** in South Sudan.

Therefore, you need 100 manual deminers for a similar daily output or seven large sized (15 deminers) manual clearance teams.

Operational Costs Comparison

Manual Clearance Team (15 Deminers size)

USD 1.14mn per year

Equivalent Output = 7 Teams

Total Costs = 7.98mn per year

Mechanical Clearance Team (Medium Sized Machine)

USD 2.2mn per year

Equivalent Output = 1 Machine

Total Costs = 2.2mn per year

BEST TOOL



EXPECTED MILESTONES – Mechanical Clearance

The proposed capacity will be able to deliver the following outputs;

Proposed Mechanical Clearance – AP Minefields				
Year	Capacity		Potential Output	
	Area (m ²)	# Teams	Area Cleared	Area Remaining
2025	3,678,334*	4	1,232,000	2,446,334
2026	2,446,334	4	1,232,000	1,214,334
2027	1,214,334	3	924,000	290,334
2028	290,334	3	924,000	0
2029	0	0	0	0
2030	0	0	0	0
* Total hazardous areas suitable for mechanical clearance in South Sudan				

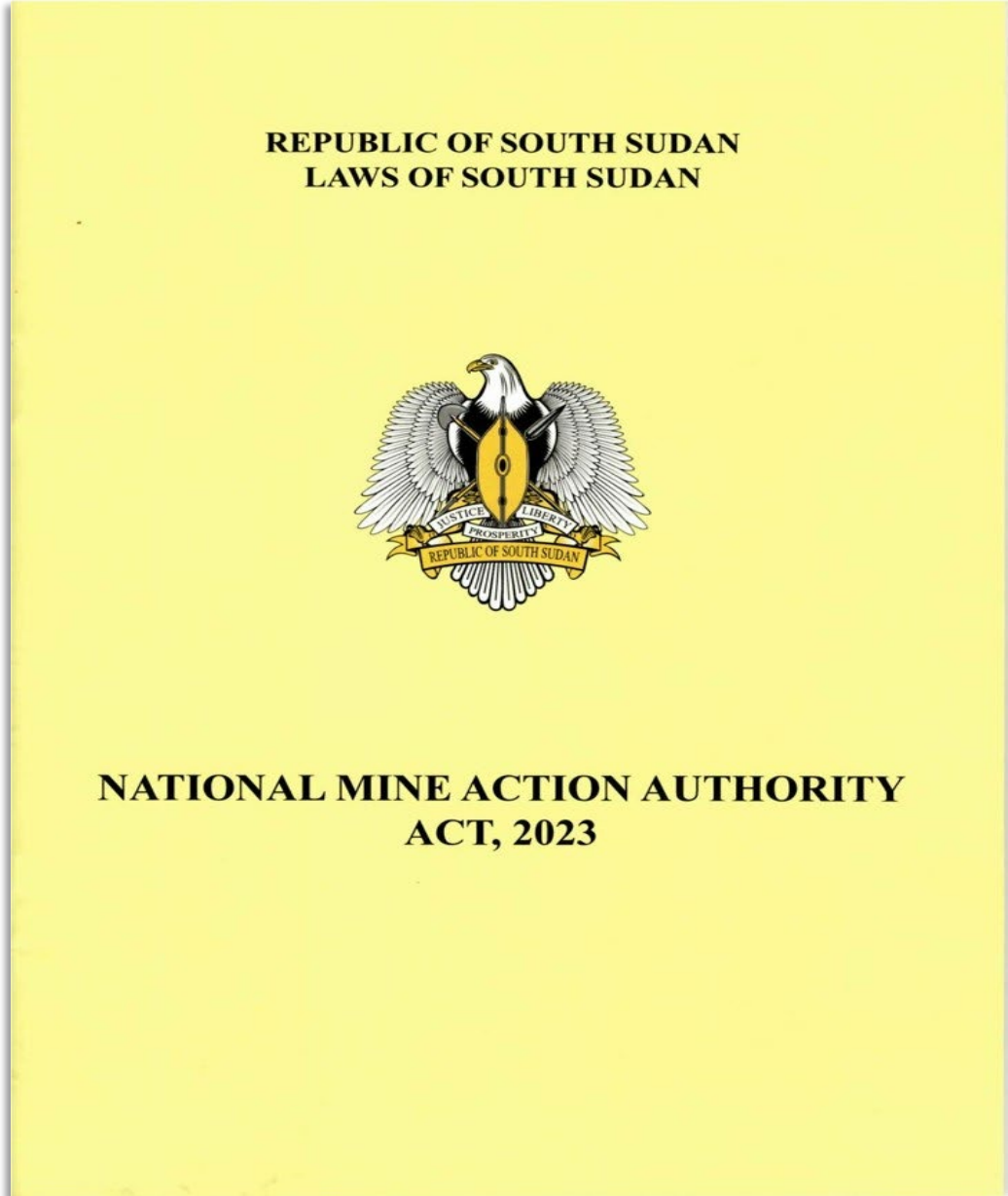
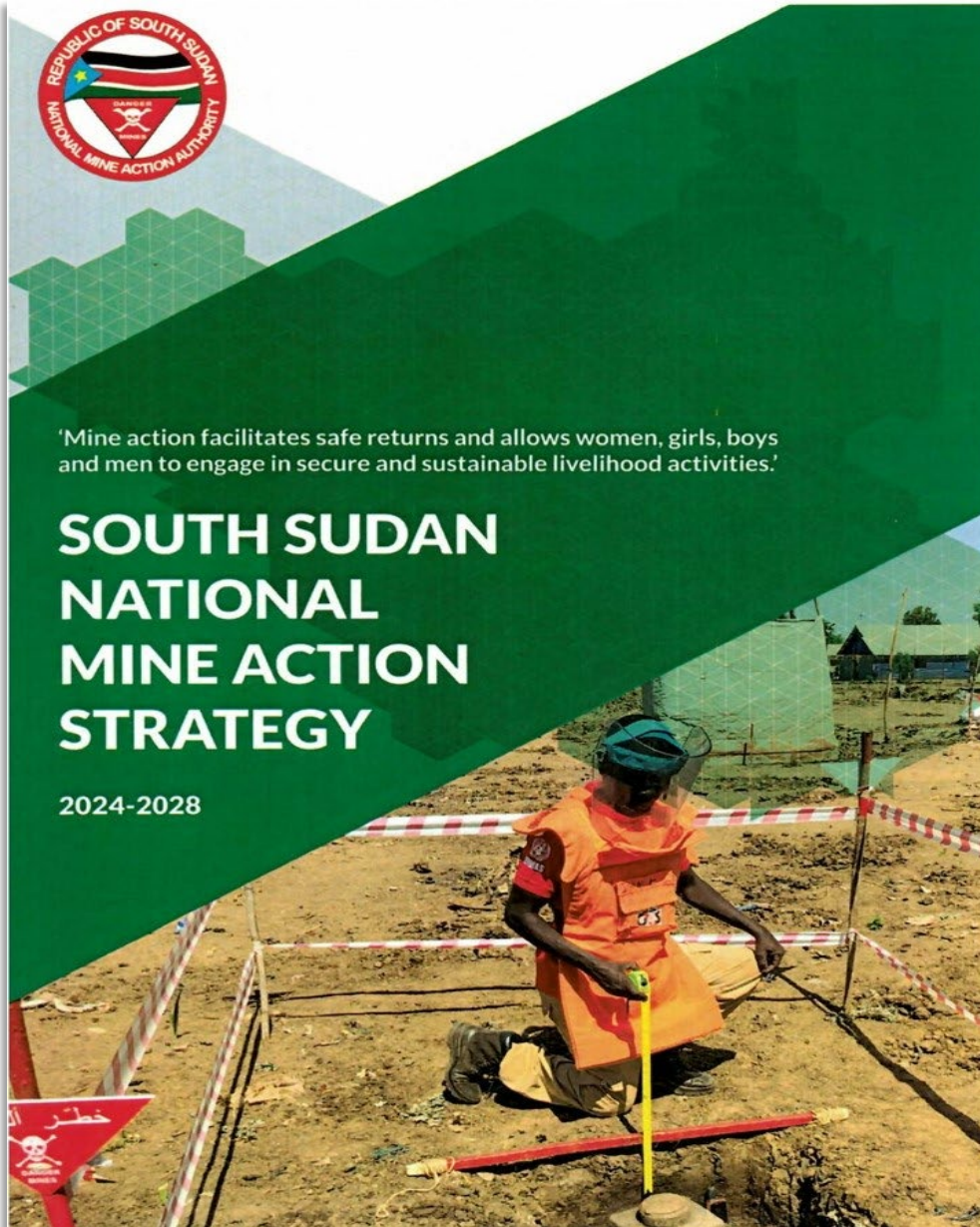


EXPECTED
MILESTONES





QUESTIONS



Individualised Approach meeting: South Sudan's mine action programme: overview of remaining challenges and requirements for assistance

19 June 2025

Speech for Hon. Jurkuch Barach Jurkuch, Chairperson of the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA)

1. Slide 1:



The Republic of South Sudan



**Presentation to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Article 5
19th Meeting of States Parties**

Updating on Progress Made Since the Last Extension Request

Hon. Jurkuch Barach Jurkuch, Chairperson NMAA South Sudan

DD Month 2025

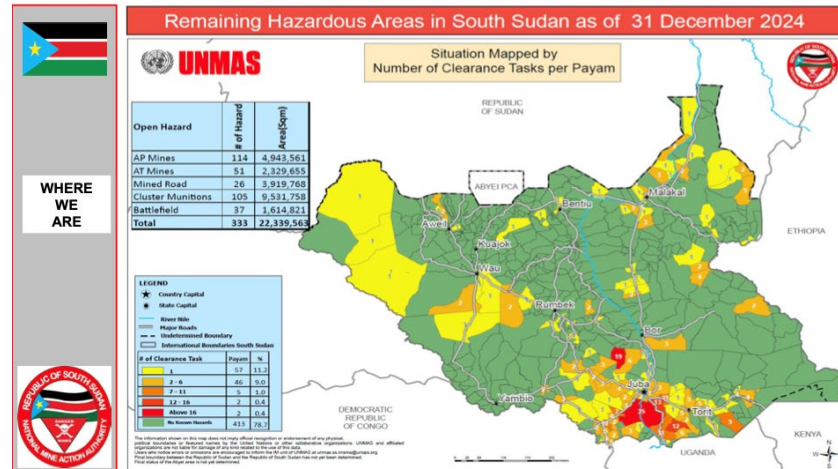
Excellencies, delegates, colleagues — good afternoon.

I am Jurkuch Barach Jurkuch, Chairperson of South Sudan National Mine Action Authority (NMAA). I am honored to present today on behalf of the Republic of South Sudan, and in particular, the National Mine Action Authority, to provide an update on our progress since our last Article 5 extension request in 2021.

In my presentation I will highlight the progress made, then present on the challenges we are currently facing, and outline our plan to address the remaining contamination.

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2. Slide 2:





This slide shows a map of South Sudan with remaining known hazardous areas- the colors yellow to red indicate the number of clearance tasks remaining. As of 31 December 2024, South Sudan still faces nearly 5 million square meters of anti-personnel mine contamination.

As you can see from the colors in the map, contamination is spread unevenly across the country. A large number of counties are mine-free, but the **others are still significantly affected, especially in the Greater Equatoria, Greater Bahr el Ghazal, and Greater Upper Nile regions.**

[next slide please]

3. Slide 3:





REMAINING THREAT

Overall Threat remaining as of 31 December 2024:



Hazard Type	No. of Tasks	Area
AP Minefields	114	4,943,561
AT minefields	51	2,329,655
Mined road	26	3,919,768
Cluster strikes	105	9,531,798
Battlefields	37	1,614,821
Totals	333	22,339,563

As of December 2024, 114 known antipersonnel (AP) minefields were recorded, accounting for around **5 million square metres** of land. In addition to the AP threat, other explosive ordnance (EO) hazardous areas are recorded, including 105 contaminated with cluster munitions, covering 17 million square metres of land.

While significant progress has been made over the past years, we remain confronted by a number of persistent challenges that I will outline in the next slide.

[next slide please]

4. Slide 4



 	Circumstances Impeding Completion	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Insecurity: Many known areas contaminated by AP minefields are inaccessible because of insecurity• Known unknowns - minefields have continued to be recorded each year since (including through accidents), although the rate of discovery has dropped.• Funding: Mine action in South Sudan continue to face challenges.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Today, 75% of clearance work is funded by UN Mission in South Sudan◦ If the UN Mission closes, then 75% mine clearance capacity will be lost.◦ Funding for international NGOs continues to dwindle◦ There are other pressing humanitarian needs in South Sudan: Health, hunger• Poor infrastructure: Majority of the contaminated areas are located in areas with very poor roads. Significantly increases logistical costs of supporting clearance.• Climatic changes: South Sudan has significantly been impacted by severe flooding since 2020 because climatic changes. A number of known minefields are currently submerged by static flooding.	

Several factors are limiting our ability to meet our Article 5 obligations:

- First, insecurity has limited access to many contaminated areas. Recurring violence and persistent instability across various regions create a highly insecure environment for demining teams, often leading to the suspension or postponement of crucial activities when access to area is no longer possible.
- To add to that, new hazardous areas continue to be recorded, including through accidents.
- Funding is an acute constraint: 75% of clearance is currently supported by the UN Mission in South Sudan. Should that support be withdrawn or significantly reduced, the clearance operational capacity would drop drastically.
- Last, the lack of well-maintained road networks and infrastructures, together with vast distances and challenging geographical features such as dense vegetation and large swampy areas, makes the transportation of personnel, equipment, and supplies extremely complex and time-consuming, increasing operational costs.

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5. Slide 5:


BEST TOOL


Best Tool to Complete the Job

The remaining problem of anti-personnel minefields hazards is best tackled using **mechanical clearance assets**.

- On average a medium sized mechanical asset clears about **2000 sqm per day**.
- In comparison, on average a manual deminer clears **20 sqm per day** in South Sudan.

Therefore, you need 100 manual deminers for a similar daily output or seven large sized (15 deminers) manual clearance teams.

Operational Costs Comparison

Manual Clearance Team (15 Deminers size)	Mechanical Clearance Team (Medium Sized Machine)
USD 1.14mn per year	USD 2.2mn per year
Equivalent Output = 7 Teams	Equivalent Output = 1 Machine
Total Costs = 7.98mn per year	Total Costs = 2.2mn per year



Despite the challenges that I have just outlined, South Sudan and the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) remain committed to attain the goal of clearing all anti-personnel mines and declare the country mine- free.

To address the remaining contamination, we must rely on the most effective means available : mechanical clearance.

A single mechanical asset can in fact clear 2,000 square meters per day. To achieve the same result with manual clearance, we would require 100 deminers. Mechanical assets offer a force multiplier that is indispensable for our context, it has been proven cost effective and more efficient.

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6. Slide 6:

 	Mechanical Clearance Assets Already in South Sudan			
	Machine	Qty	Owner	Funded
	MW370	2	NMAA	No
	MW370	2	NPA	No
	MW330	1	UNMAS	Up to June 2026
	MW240	2	UNMAS	Up to June 2026
	MW240	1	DCA	No
	MW240	1	TDI	No

BEST TOOL

If all these machines receive funding, the remaining problem of the anti-personnel mines contamination in South Sudan would be eliminated in two years

Remaining AP THREAT
4,943,561 Sqm

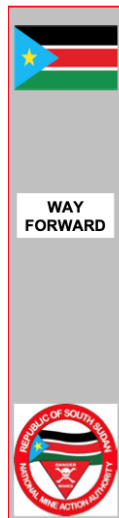
The good news is that the mechanical assets we need are already in the country, as summarized in this table. Some machines are currently funded, others not.

If all these machines are fully funded and deployed, South Sudan could eliminate its remaining anti-personnel mine threat within just two years.

Excellencies, delegates, colleagues- what I am presenting you is not a capacity that needs to be built from scratch — it simply needs to be activated and supported.

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7. Slide 7:



South Sudan is pleading to **ACTIVATE** capacity that already exists

- **Assets already in South Sudan:** There will be no procurement delays since the assets are already in the country.
- **Significantly reduce clearance timelines** - South Sudan will accelerate its journey towards meeting its obligations to the Convention.
- **Cost Efficiency:** Mechanical clearance is cheaper for similar outputs in comparison to manual clearance only.
- **Opportunity Lost:** The more these machines remain idle, the more opportunity is lost to rid South Sudan of AP mine contamination in a timely manner.
- **Manual Teams Utilized for other threat:** Machines will be dedicated to clearance of the AP mine threat which will give the manual teams to clearance other types of threat that remain in South Sudan.

7

Our suggested way forward presents several positive aspects that I want to highlight. First, Since the assets are already in South Sudan, there are no procurement delays. With adequate support to the existing mechanical assets, clearance timelines would shrink significantly, allowing us to move faster and closer to the mine-free goal.

Mechanical clearance is not only faster — it's also cheaper per square meter. Moreover, using mechanical assets for anti-personnel mines would free up manual clearance teams to address other explosive threats that are present in the Country.

As a way forward, we shall follow up with the donors in the country to seek for more support.

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8. Slide 8: Conclusion



As I conclude, allow me to express South Sudan's sincere gratitude to all our partners and donors. Continued support and commitment makes mine action work possible and save lives every day. We are inviting you to be the part of a great success, and look forward to your ongoing support as **we push forward to clear the last path for a safer and prosperous future** for the people of South Sudan.

Thank you.