



IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 IN GUINEA-BISSAU: SITUATION AND CHALLENGES

THE THREE MAIN PHASES IN IMPLEMENTING ARTICLE 5

The landmine contamination in Guinea-Bissau dates back to the liberation war of 1963-1974. Other landmines and explosive remnants of war were also laid during the 1998-1999 civil war and the Casamance conflict in 2006.

Initial completion in 2012

- Guinea-Bissau signed the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in 2001. The national mine action center, known as "CAAMI", was created the same year.
- Investigation and clearance operations, as well as explosive ordnance risk education and victim assistance activities, were carried out from 2001 to 2012.
- In 2012, Guinea-Bissau declared that it had fulfilled its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention. Most activities ceased after Guinea-Bissau's declaration of completion.

New deadline: December 2022

- In June 2021, Guinea-Bissau reported to the intersessional meeting the discovery of previously unknown mined areas.
- Guinea-Bissau also reported new casualties caused by anti-personnel mines and other explosive devices.
- Guinea-Bissau has obtained two extensions to the Article 5 deadline, with new deadlines in 2022 and 2024, with the aim of mobilizing resources, developing national capacities and carrying out the non-technical survey activities needed to gain a better understanding of the extent of the contamination and, on the basis of this information, to draw up an evidence-based action plan.

Request for 3-year extension to December 31, 2027

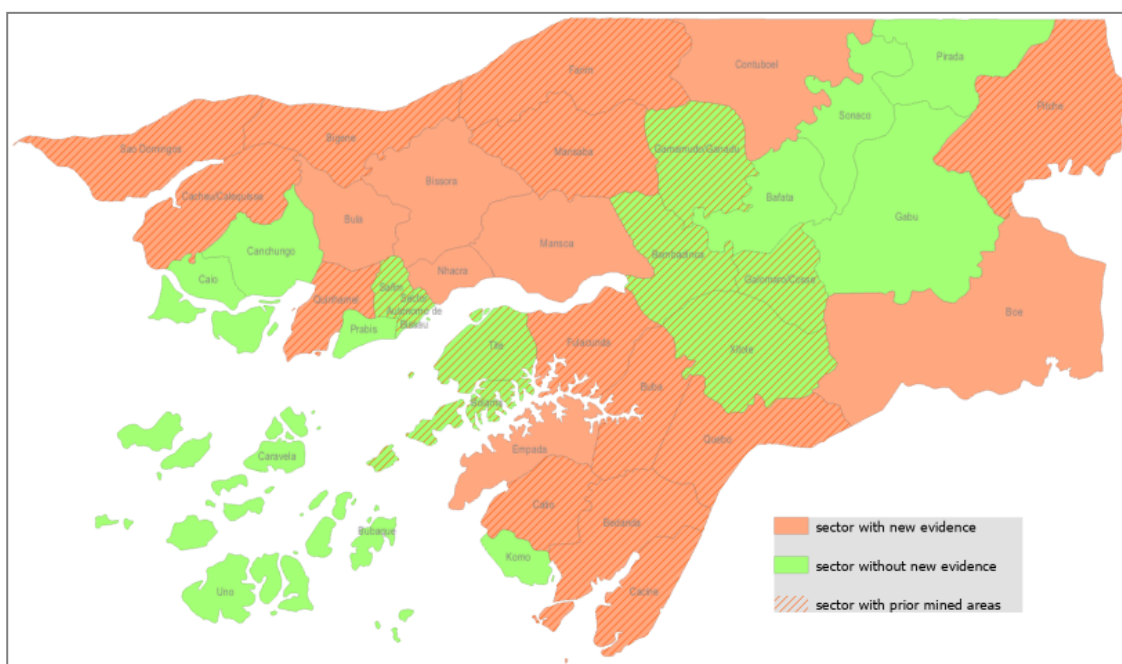
- Since the reintroduction of its extension request in 2022, Guinea-Bissau has made progress towards a number of objectives, thanks to financial support from Norway and the Netherlands. National and international operators have been remobilized, enabling the relaunch of risk education, non-technical survey and explosive ordnance disposal activities. As a result, initial mapping of the extent and nature of the contamination was carried out. However, the funds allocated were not sufficient to implement all the activities envisaged in the action plans drawn up.
- The major progresses made over the past four years has enabled Guinea-Bissau to revitalize its mine action sector, develop national standards aligned with international mine action standards (IMAS) and underlines CAAMI's commitment to achieving the short-term goal of a mine-free country.
- On the strength of this progress, and in order to consolidate its efforts, Guinea-Bissau submitted a new request in April 2024 for an extension of the time limit set out in Article 5, until December 2027.



REMAINING CONTAMINATION

Since the declaration of completion of its Article 5 obligations in 2012, Guinea-Bissau has recorded multiple instances of remaining contamination by mines and other explosive remnants of war:

- 14 accidents involving 76 victims were recorded, despite the absence of formal reporting mechanisms.
- In 2014, the national non-governmental organization (NGO) HUMAID confirmed through field visits the presence of 9 confirmed hazardous areas, with an estimated surface area of 1,093,840 square meters. A further 43 areas are also suspected of contamination, 5 of which were reassessed and cancelled in 2024.
- The remaining 38 areas are to be re-surveyed using the latest techniques based on IMAS.
- In 2024, accredited operators Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and HUMAID identified 2 confirmed contaminated areas covering 124,566 square meters. MAG also identified 15 suspected contaminated hazardous areas, representing a surface area of 187,209 square meters.
- All areas identified in 2024 through non-technical surveys must be the subject of a technical survey as soon as possible.
- Mapping old and new evidence of contamination shows that it is spread over most of the territory.



Map of Guinea-Bissau showing administrative sectors with old evidence of contamination (at least one area cleared of mines between 2001 and 2012 in red hatching) and new evidence of contamination (at least one hazardous area and/or accident since 2012 in red background)



PLAN TO DEAL WITH REMAINING CONTAMINATION

- **For the above reasons, Guinea-Bissau has concluded that priority should be given in the years 2025-2026 to finalizing the national non-technical survey and initiating technical survey and clearance activities using an evidence-based, IMAS-compliant land release process.** These elements will (i) definitively establish the nature and extent of the challenge posed by mines as well as explosive remnants of war (ERW) that also widely contaminate the country; and (ii) develop evidence-based work plans and resource mobilization plans necessary for Guinea-Bissau to pursue its goal of being a mine-free country by 2027.
- **Guinea-Bissau also considers it necessary to mobilize a marking and clearance capacity and risk education activities alongside the national survey to reduce, respectively, the threat posed by explosive devices and the vulnerability of the population to this threat.**



2024, AP Mine, South, Tombali, Bedanda, Mbaibaila



2024, War Explosive Remnant, Battlefield, North, Oio, Nhacra

CHALLENGES IN DEALING WITH REMAINING CONTAMINATION

- Guinea-Bissau can count on three active national structures to implement the majority of its activities: the National Mine Action Coordination Center (CAAMI), the national operator HUMAID, and the civil society organization NADEL, trained and supervised between 2023 and 2024 by the international operator MAG to carry out risk education activities and non-technical surveys. However, these structures have limited resources, in terms of personnel, equipment and funding
- Guinea-Bissau reviewed its information management processes and accredited three operators in 2023 (HUMAID, MAG and HALO Trust), and drew up and adopted national mine action standards in 2024. Despite these advances, the country faces a series of challenges: (i) setting up a robust, sustainable information management system to manage and improve the safety, quality and efficiency of activities; (ii) acquiring sufficient modern, high-performance equipment; (iii) recruiting and training additional staff; (iv) ensuring the sustainability of international support.
- The support of Norway and the Netherlands has enabled the initial deployment from 2022 to 2024 of the international NGO Mines Advisory Group (MAG) to support CAAMI at the operational and normative levels.
- The overall budget for the 2025-2027 implementation phase is estimated at USD 5,932,274, as yet unfunded.



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Guinea-Bissau has requested a 36-month extension to its Article 5 obligations, with a new deadline of December 31, 2027. **Guinea-Bissau warns that a halt in funding would pose a major risk to all its demining efforts, threatening to wipe out the progress made in recent years. Against this backdrop, Guinea-Bissau urgently appeals to the international community for crucial and sustained financial support for the plan presented in its extension request, while committing itself to strengthening the mobilization of national resources.**

2025-2026 SURVEYS AND TECHNICAL REINFORCEMENT	2026-2027 CLEARANCE AND RESIDUAL RISK MANAGEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mobilizing resources• Establishment of an information management system• Continuation and completion of non-technical surveys• Equipment acquisition• Strengthening national demining capacities• Risk education activities• National non-technical survey completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mobilizing resources• Risk education activities• Implementation of technical surveys• Clearance activities• Residual risk management strategy development
USD 3,536,449	USD 2,395,825

Please refer to the extension request submitted in 2024 for further details.