



Strengthening National Mine Action Capacity for Peace, Stability, and Development in South Sudan

A Concept Note



A deminer carrying out manual mine clearance in Maban, Upper Nile State, South Sudan

Project Title	Strengthening National Mine Action Capacity for Peace, Stability, and Development in South Sudan
Geographical Coverage	All States in South Sudan
Beneficiaries	Government of South Sudan - the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) At-risk communities and individuals
Implementing Organization	The National Mine Action Authority (NMAA)
Project Duration	18 months
Funds Requested	USD 2,360,000
NMAA Contact	Hon. Jurkuch Barach Jurkuch Chairperson, National Mine Action Authority- Republic of South Sudan Chairperson +211921651088 ibarach70@gmail.com

1. Summary

The Republic of South Sudan continues to face significant challenges in addressing the aftermath of decades of conflict. Landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) are widespread in many parts of the country, posing severe risks to civilian lives, hindering development, and restricting access to vital resources. The National Mine Action Authority (NMAA), the key governmental body responsible for managing mine action efforts in South Sudan, is vital for coordinating and overseeing the efforts to clear landmines and other explosive ordnance (EO).

Despite the NMAA's critical role, the authority faces several challenges, including limited capacity, lack of advanced technical skills, and inadequate operational resources. The effective implementation of mine action activities requires robust expertise in areas such as operational planning, information management, and land release methods.

Due to operational and increasingly financial constraints, South Sudan is currently not on track to meet its 2026 completion deadline under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). In response, the NMAA is in the process of preparing an Article 5 Extension Request, proposing a new deadline of 2030. Strengthening the capacity of the NMAA is critical to ensuring that South Sudan can meet this revised target, protect its citizens from explosive threats, and contribute meaningfully to long-term peacebuilding and development.

2. Rationale

2.1 Project needs

The humanitarian crisis in South Sudan remains dire, with 9 million people in need of humanitarian assistance or protection services and 5.2 million¹ individuals facing severe living conditions challenges. Compounding this situation are the urgent and unpredictable demands for rebuilding state capacity to facilitate the safe return of 861,600 refugees currently sheltered in Uganda² and those fleeing the conflict in Sudan. Explosive ordnance (EO) contamination poses a significant barrier to these efforts. Approximately 22km² of land remains contaminated, encompassing 334 priority tasks, including 190 minefields, 106 cluster munition strikes, and 38 battlefields³.

NMAA is the government body mandated to authorize and coordinate mine action operations in South Sudan. It is currently supported by UNMAS in fulfilling its mandate. However, the capacity of the NMAA to effectively manage and coordinate mine action efforts remains constrained, particularly in the face of escalating needs driven by humanitarian, environmental, economic and political crises. Strengthening the NMAA's institutional, managerial, and operational capacity is critical to enabling the timely and effective response needed to mitigate risks from EO, prevent casualties, and support broader humanitarian and development goals.

By empowering NMAA to fulfil its obligations under the APMBC and manage operations sustainably, the project will indirectly support vulnerable groups, including returnees, IDPs, and affected communities, in particular children, while aligning with South Sudan's humanitarian and development priorities.

The National Mine Action Authority is the grant recipient for this project and is in alignment with the strategic objectives of the Authority as well as its vision to assume full responsibility for the long-term coordination of clearance efforts. However, to do so, there are still immediate and acute needs to develop its managerial and oversight capacity to plan, coordinate, and monitor the tasking of mine action to enable safe returns and socio-economic development.

2.2 Strategic advantage and alignment

The project is aligned with the Government of South Sudan's national policy and strategies, including the National Development Strategy (NDS), by contributing to its objective of strengthening national institutions' governance and institutional capacity. It further aligns with South Sudan's NMAA Act (2023), which mandates the NMAA to manage all mine action operations, and the South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy (2024 - 2028), which promotes national ownership as one of its objectives. It also addresses cross-cutting themes, including the Grand Bargain, which enhances the efficiency of humanitarian action, and the mine action Gender Equality and Diversity policy, which was adopted in early 2025.

The project will also contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). An improvement in the NMAA's capacity to coordinate mine action operations in South Sudan will accelerate "SDG 2: Zero Hunger" through survey of agricultural areas and "SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions" through survey and clearance of EO, provision of EORE, and support for building the capacity of the national institution, the NMAA. In addition,

¹UNOCHA Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024
<https://humanitarianaction.info/plan/1157>

²Ibidem

³UNMAS South Sudan IMSMA database as of 28 February 2025

the project will contribute to achieving “SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being,” “SDG 4: Quality Education,” and “SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation” through the removal of EO from key infrastructure. This project also links to the 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for South Sudan (HNRP), in which humanitarian mine action interventions are represented.

3. Project Components

This initiative seeks to achieve the following key components, aligned to the national mine action strategy.

Component 1: The NMAA's internal managerial structure and capacity to oversee and coordinate the national mine action response are strengthened.

Output 1.1 The internal management structure, including internal controls and financial compliance, are enhanced

- Deploy an in-house specialist consultant on audit and compliance to advise the NMAA and provide on-the-job (OJT) training on strengthening internal management systems and practices.
- Support the development and implementation of internal controls and financial compliance mechanisms
- Advise on the design and institutionalisation of internal management structures, including roles and responsibilities, decision-making processes, and operational policies

Output 1.2 The capacity to plan, supervise, and oversee Mine Action operations is strengthened

- Deploy an in-house operations specialist consultant to advise the NMAA provide OJT on technical and operational planning and oversight matters
- Support the development and implementation of national standards, standard operating procedures (SOPs)
- Advise on the design of planning tools related to operations coordination, quality assurance/control, and task prioritisation
- Provide technical guidance and capacity-building support to strengthen NMAA's role in the quality management and oversight of field operations
- Provide specialized training for selected staff

Output 1.3 The capacity to manage and utilise information for mine action planning, monitoring, and evaluation is strengthened

- Deploy an in-house national consultant on information management to advise the NMAA and provide OJT training on the use of IM tools and systems, in particular the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA)
- Support the use and institutionalisation of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and other data management tools to support evidence-based planning and reporting.
- Provide technical assistance and capacity building to enhance the NMAA's ability to analyse, visualise, and communicate mine action data for operational coordination, quality assurance, and decision-making.
- Provide specialized training for selected staff

Component 2: NMAA restores operational readiness and carries out survey and clearance operations.

Output 2.1 1x mechanical assets are refurbished to restore operational readiness

- Conduct a comprehensive technical assessment of NMAA's existing mechanical clearance assets to determine operational readiness and define refurbishment requirements and specifications.
- Carry out mechanical clearance asset refurbishment

Output 2.2 Previously contaminated land is released through mechanical clearance operations

- Mobilization of 1x NMAA mechanical integrated clearance operations team
- Carry out mechanical integrated clearance assets operations
- Provide regular operational reporting into IMSMA as per NTSG

Output 2.3 Previously contaminated land is released through manual land release activities

- Mobilization of 1x NMAA multi-task operations team
- Carry out land release activity, including survey and clearance and EO risk education
- Provide regular reporting into IMSMA as per NTSG

Component 3: Provision of child-focused Explosive Ordnance Risk Education, and of victim assistance in South Sudan is enhanced

Output 3.1 Child-focused EORE material is developed and disseminated, and victim assistance

- Develop and test child-focused EORE material, including radio drama, leaflets and games
- Carry out training on child-friendly EORE delivery for mine action sector partners
- Print and disseminate EORE material to sector partners
- Develop victim assistance referral system
- Carry out training on victim assistance referral system for mine action sector partners

4. Partnerships

- (1) National/Local Governments: National Mine Action Authority (NMAA)
- (2) UN agencies: UNMAS currently supports NMAA with co-coordination of the sector.
- (3) International NGOS (MAG, DRC, DCA)
- (4) National NGOs

5. Monitoring and Reporting

- (1) Quarterly reports
- (2) Annual Financial Reports
- (3) Post-completion monitoring - 3 months after the end of the project.

6. Budget (USD)

Total: USD 2,360,000

	Description	Amount (USD)
Component 1	The NMAA's internal managerial structure and its capacity to oversee and coordinate the national mine action response, is strengthened.	871,672
1-1	Internal management structure, including internal controls and financial compliance, is enhanced	270,000
1-2	The capacity to plan, supervise, and oversee Mine Action operations is strengthened	478,338
1-3	Capacity to manage and utilise information for mine action planning, monitoring, and evaluation is strengthened	123,334
Component 2	NMAA restores operational readiness and carries out survey and clearance operations.	1,233,783
2-1	1x mechanical assets are refurbished to restore operational readiness	206,312
2-2	Previously contaminated land is released through mechanical integrated clearance operations team	784,764
2-3	Previously contaminated land is released through manual land release activities	242,707
Component 3	Provision of child-focused Explosive Ordnance Risk Education, and of victim assistance in South Sudan, is enhanced	40,000
3-1	Child-focused EORE material is developed and disseminated, and victim assistance	40,000
Sub-Total	Project Direct Costs	2,145,455
Sub-Total	Project Support Costs (10%)	214,545
Total	Project Costs	2,360,000